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THURSDAY APRIL 11 1996

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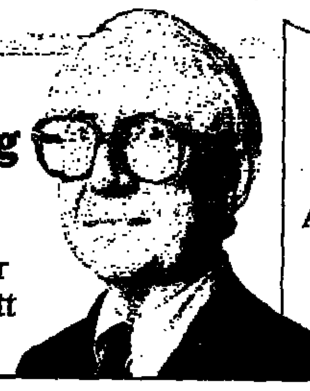

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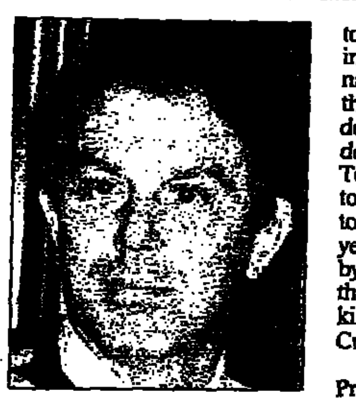
'I am a passionate free-trader'

Blair courts Wall St with pledge on tax

By Peter Riddell in New York and Philip Webster

TONY BLAIR flew into New York last night to tell some of the world's leading financiers that a Labour Britain would be a safe bet for their investments.

Within hours of arriving for a three-day visit, the Labour leader told a Wall Street audience that he was a "passionate free-trader and unashamed anti-protectionist". He assured them of his commitment to enterprise and promised that Labour would set tax rates that would not deter overseas companies.



Tony Blair leaving Heathrow yesterday

Setting the tone for a trip that is designed to convince international financial opinion that Labour has changed for good, Mr Blair assured executives that the old image of a "high tax and spend" party was dead and buried, and that he would retain the key elements of Margaret Thatcher's trade union reforms.

Policy test

Labour has the best policies on ten of the 14 most important general election issues, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*. It is well ahead on economic and social issues and trails only on questions of foreign policy ....Page 10

It was the sort of message that previous Labour leaders — even Neil Kinnock in the early days of the modernising crusade — would have found difficult to deliver for fear of angering leftwingers at home. That Mr Blair was able to do so, probably expecting no more than a murmur of protest, was further confirmation of his domination over his party and its conversion to the market economy.

His audience yesterday included representatives from BZW, Goldman Sachs, S G Warburg and Lazards. George Soros, the billionaire trader whose activities put the pound under the heaviest pressure during the ERM fiasco, also asked to see him.

Mr Blair told them that Labour had changed since they last knew it in government and was changing still. It was moderate, committed to economic stability and would set tough inflation targets. While there would be real change under a Labour administration — particularly in the fields of training, education and welfare — there would also be elements of continuity, notably with the trade union reforms.

Mr Blair also promised a more positive attitude to Europe than had been seen in recent years, adding that a sound Anglo-American relationship depended on strength in Europe. The real threat in Europe and the US was coming from a "vocal, protectionist, isolationist and extreme right wing", he said.

Emphasising that the days of high taxing and spending were gone, Mr Blair said Labour understood that tax rates must be competitive internationally to attract international business investment — a theme that he will develop today in a speech to the US-UK chamber of commerce setting out how industry and government can work together for the common good.

Mr Blair's visit is intended to raise his profile on the international stage — culminating tomorrow in talks at the White House with President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore — and senior Tory strategists are resigned to his being fêted in Washington, even though his arrival yesterday was overshadowed by the funeral of Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary killed in a plane crash in Croatia last week.

One close adviser to the Prime Minister said yesterday: "Clinton will want to punish us. There is no doubt about that." He was referring to anger among Democrats during the last presidential campaign when Conservative strategists went over to help in the campaign to re-elect George Bush. Tory MPs were furious at the move, which they felt at the time would be counter-productive.

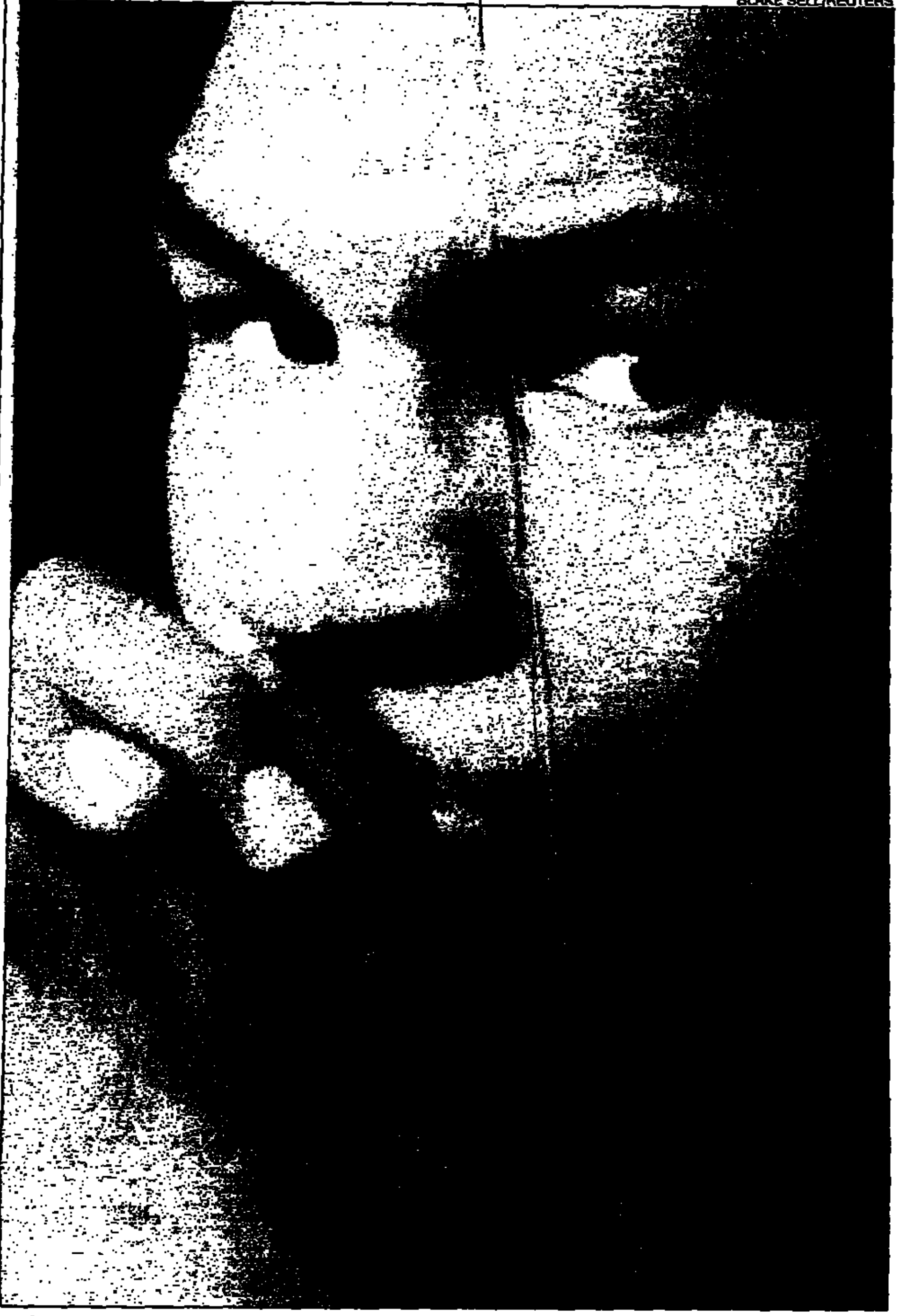
There was also controversy last weekend over the Conservatives' decision to send Republican sympathisers a sheaf of quotations from Mr Blair, allegedly detailing his "un-American activities".

Mr Blair can be certain that Mr Clinton will give him an entirely different reception from that accorded to Mr Kinnock by Ronald Reagan in 1987. He got short shrift at the White House and Mr Reagan's press spokesman then issued a hotly disputed account of the meeting.

Mr Blair and Mr Clinton, by contrast, are reported to have got on well when they met for a lengthy chat in London last November.

The Labour Leader has already benefited from extensive advance publicity in America and he will make a number of television appearances during his visit, including an eight-minute interview on the ABC network television breakfast show, *Good Morning America*.

Tax seminars, page 10



BLAKE SELL/REUTERS

Mike Tyson, who is out on parole. Now he faces an accusation of sexual assault

Tyson denies sex attack in club

From Quentin Letts in New York

MIKE TYSON, the heavyweight boxing champion, is under investigation after a woman complained of sexual assault. She said she was badly treated by him in a Chicago nightclub.

Police said yesterday that "a report involving Mike Tyson has been made and will be under investigation," although no charges have been made. The incident is said to have happened in the fashionable Clique discotheque on the city's South Side, where Tyson went on Sunday after visiting a mosque.

Yesterday, the Tyson camp backed the boxer's denial of the allegation, saying there was no truth in the claims.

The 25-year-old woman, identified only as an Indiana beautician and the co-owner of an off-licence, telephoned police at 6am on Monday. Her lawyer submitted a formal, written complaint of sexual battery on Tuesday night.

For Tyson, the accusation is an echo of his 1992 conviction for raping Desiree Washington, a contestant in the Miss Black America beauty pageant. He served three years in jail, and is on parole.

On his release last year, the boxer said he intended to live a quiet, devout life as a Muslim. His first stop on leaving prison was a mosque, and he took to wearing Islamic garb. His daily literature, we learnt, was the Koran.

In recent months, however, as he has rediscovered his form in the ring — including victory over the WBC champion Frank Bruno to regain a world title — and renewed his acquaintance with some of the characters who run boxing, there have been signs of a return to a less strict regime.

His recent 30th birthday party in New York was said to have been attended by "lots of beautiful women with hardly any clothes on".

Church urged to stop drift of young people from the pews

By Ruth Gledhill and Lin Jenkins

FUNDAMENTAL change is needed to stop young people abandoning the Church of England in droves, the General Synod is to be told after a study found that youth attendance had dropped by a third in seven years.

Youngsters are becoming increasingly alienated, in spite of the growth of the evangelical movement, so-called "happy clappy" services and alternative styles of worship, and their lack of interest threatens the future of Anglicanism into the next century, the report says.

The Church's Board of Education working party urges bishops and the Church hierarchy to consider pledging a third of funds to the under 25s, decentralising power to allow more young people a role in decision making, and developing new forms of worship.

The report, *Youth A Part*, is the result of a three-year examination of the extent, nature and purpose of work with 11 to 25-year-olds. It found that while the Church still played a pivotal role with young people at christenings, marriages and funerals, it failed to draw them in on a regular basis.

Since 1987, Sunday attendance among those aged 14 to 17 has fallen by nearly 35 per cent to just 60,739. In the same period, attendance among 18 to 21-year-olds has fallen by 34.1 per cent to 39,955. Church attendance in the 22 to 25 age group is 53,405, although there is no comparative figure from previous years.

Research by the Centre for Theology and Education at Trinity College, Carmarthen, has also found a drop in attendance at other church-based organisations. Youth clubs, Guide and Scout groups meeting at church halls all went into sharp decline between 1987 and 1993 — for example, the number of 18 to 20-year-olds going to youth clubs fell over 40 per cent.

With almost a third of the population aged under 25, the working party says that steps need to be taken to involve them in the running of the Church. Only 1 per cent of those serving on parochial church councils are aged under 25 — about 2,000 people. There are however, nearly 10,000 young bell ringers, 21,000 acting as servers and more than 28,000 who sing in choirs.

Large numbers of young people still marry in church — there were 69,531 brides and grooms aged under 25 in 1994 — yet they fail to go to Sunday services.

The working party was chaired by the Rt Rev Ian Harland, Bishop of Carlisle, who described the picture as "bleak" and called for the Church and young people to find common ground.

But while he said the decline seemed to be accelerating, he thought it was partly a result of a general change that had seen young people abandoning many organisations.

In a foreword to the report, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, recalled that the Church was always "one generation away from extinction".

He added: "We are called upon, as a Church, to proclaim the faith 'afresh in each generation'. My hope is that this report will stimulate us to do precisely that, so that many thousands of young people may come to find, as I did over 40 years ago, that excitement, challenge and satisfaction of a living relationship with Christ."

Leading article, page 19
Cultural gap, page 6

Labour confident of by-election win

John Major's Commons majority will fall to one tonight if the Conservatives lose the Staffordshire south-east by-election.

After a busy final day of campaigning, Labour was confident of overturning the 7,192 Tory majority. If they do so, the Prime Minister's 21-seat majority at the 1992 general election will have been all but wiped out, leaving him even more at the mercy of events..........Page 10

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Endangered Tory MP gets survival manual

By James Landale, Political Reporter

ANTHONY STEEN, MP, may have hit on a growth industry. He has written a guide for a fellow Conservative on how to keep his marginal seat.

Mr Steen, the member for South Hams, an MP since 1973 and author of *TIPS (Tested Ideas for Political Success)*, was commissioned by Gary Waller to tell him what he needs to do to hang on to his marginal constituency of Keighley (majority 3,596) in West Yorkshire.

The blunt analysis in the 16-page report is the most comprehensive guide to handling constituents since kissing babies was first suggested. Among the advice to Mr Waller is:

■ Hold tea parties for Bangladeshi and Pakistani children to improve links with the local Asian community;

■ Sponsor a series of music and sports trophies for school children — dubbed the "Gary Waller Awards" — to get to be known by local parents;

■ Make sure that invitations for coffee mornings are not handscrawled but are properly set out to suggest "a level of formality";

■ Walk down the the street during house visits leaving party activists to knock on doors, but "keep your eyes open to avoid being run down by a car";

■ Associate yourself more closely with disadvantaged groups, such as the disabled and single parents.

Mr Steen and a dozen other experienced MPs first began advising fellow Tories at the instigation of Jeremy Hanley, the former party chairman. The "Chairman's Men" have written reports on some 20 MPs who asked for their advice.

When asked of his assessment of Mr Waller, Mr Steen said yesterday: "I gave him very high marks. All I was doing was a little fine tuning. But to give him an alpha-plus would have been unreal."

Mr Waller welcomed the report and said he was acting on the advice except the criticism that he failed to provide enough leadership. "I don't think I would necessarily accept that," he said.

"You're booked, Chief Constable, but I'd like to add we both thought you handled the car superbly at high speed"

Chief Constable caught speeding

The Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, Ben Gunn, was stopped by one of his own traffic patrols and reported for speeding at 90 mph on the M11.

Mr Gunn, an expert on DNA and counter-terrorism, apologised for the incident, which will be considered by his force's police authority. He has already paid a fixed penalty fine of £40 and will have three penalty points put on his licence ...... Pages 3, 17

British aid worker trapped in Liberia

By Sam Kiley

TEENAGE soldiers armed with machineguns and automatic rifles went on a looting rampage in Monrovia, Liberia's capital, trapping a British aid worker in his flat last night.

John Hare, an engineer working for Save the Children, ignored the chance to be evacuated in order to act as a logistical co-ordinator for the medical agencies coping with the wounded on the streets.

Mr Hare, 47, a father of three from Hatherleigh in Devon, was described by the charity's overseas director as "extremely unflappable".

His wife, Susan, speaking from home, said last night she was "not shocked when he said he was going to stay. He explained that there were a lot of people there in a lot of trouble and they needed his help. I don't get used to these situations but I accept his job and support him in it," she added.

Bart Witteveen, Save the Children team leader, said that looting was widespread throughout Mamba Point, the beachside suburb from where American helicopters flew other foreigners to safety in neighbouring Sierra Leone. Last night the operation was being hampered by rain.

"Looters are working their way through the area stealing cars and other equipment from the aid agencies and the United Nations. Pretty much every parking lot is being workerd over by boys with their guns," he said from the flat where he was trapped.

After seven years of civil war Liberians have grown accustomed to the rattle of machineguns and the crash of artillery around their capital. What really scared them were the teenage gunmen who take conflict as an excuse for looting.

At the Mamba Point Hotel, also close to the American embassy, a receptionist said that he had come to work last Friday before the fighting between Roosevelt Johnson and Liberia's fragile coalition government broke out. "I have not been home since then."

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Self Assessment
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When you receive your next tax return, open it immediately because we've enclosed some important information about Self Assessment.

Inland Revenue

Self Assessment- a clearer tax system

BR sale chief to quit job two years early

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

Salmon: intense political pressure

THE man responsible for selling off British Rail's passenger services announced yesterday that he is to quit two years early. Roger Salmon, who became rail franchise director in November 1993 for a five-year term, has told the Government he wants to leave after three years in October.

The embarrassing announcement comes as the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf), which he heads, enters negotiations over the sale of the politically sensitive ScotRail and West Coast Main Line franchises.

Mr Salmon, 50, has been under intense political pressure to rush through the sale of franchises since he took the job and has faced constant criticism from opponents of privatisation.

His tenure has been dominated by disputes over the sale of rail services, including his decision to axe the Fort William sleeper, which was later reversed; two last-minute court challenges to the sale of franchises; and the embarrassing withdrawal of the LTS franchise hours before it was due to be transferred to its managers.

The Government had hoped to sell 51 per cent of services by April 1, but only 17 per cent were operating in the private sector by the deadline.

Labour seized on Mr Salmon's departure as further evidence of the imminent collapse of privatisation. Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, described Mr Salmon as "a rat leaving the sinking ship". He was getting out of the industry before a Labour government could sack him.

Mr Salmon insisted, however, that he had always intended to step down after the sale of the first handful of British Rail train franchises. Two have been sold so far and a further four are close to completion. It had been his most demanding job.

He said: "I have done what I feel I came here to do." The sale of franchises would be at an advanced stage by the autumn. "I therefore feel it is appropriate for me and for the long term health of Opraf to hand over to someone else."

Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, paid tribute to Mr Salmon's "leadership and his successes in preparing the passenger franchises and securing their transfer to private ownership".

EU postpones decision on beef byproducts ban

By Charles Bremner in Brussels and Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE blanket ban on British beef remained in force last night after senior European Union officials turned a deaf ear to calls for beef byproducts such as gelatin and tallow to be removed from the prohibited list.

There had been no prospect of lifting the meat embargo, but the Commission in Brussels had hoped that the Standing Veterinary Committee would agree to allow the export of the two byproducts, used in a broad range of food, cosmetics and medicines. Last week the World Health Organisation said that these carried no risk of passing on "mad cow" disease. However, resistance to any easing of the ban was so strong that the Commission decided not to table a formal proposal for a vote yesterday. Instead, it will seek an opinion on the byproducts from an EU medical products body which meets on Monday.

Keith Meldrum, the Government's Chief Veterinary Officer, was given a sceptical hearing when he repeated Britain's argument that the export ban was not justified by any evidence linking bovine spongiform encephalopathy in cattle to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent.

British officials took some satisfaction, however, from the Commission's emphasis on scientific argument.

Only Sweden showed any sign of supporting British efforts to ease the curbs. "Member states linked very directly any easing of a ban with a clear eradication and control programme from Britain," Gerry Kiely, spokesman for Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, said.

"Governments are clearly not prepared to do anything at this stage to jeopardise fragile consumer confidence, which is gradually building up."

The Ministry of Agriculture said it was disappointed by the decision. "We had at least hoped that gelatin would have been taken off the list of banned products," a spokesman said. "There is absolutely no scientific reason for its inclusion, as the World Health Organisation pointed out only last week."

Gavin Strang, Shadow Agriculture Minister, said: "Most people expected some movement from the veterinary committee. Clearly the Government has a lot of work to do to persuade other governments that the new measures are in place and are being effectively implemented."

Even if the byproducts are allowed, there is little prospect that the main export ban will be eased until the Government satisfies other EU states that it has a plan for a selective cull to remove all possible traces of the BSE from the food chain. Consumption of beef has fallen 15 to 30 per cent, according to trade estimates in France, Germany and Belgium.

Beef traders told the Prime Minister last night that their industry was "within days of collapsing like a house of cards". The warning was contained in a letter delivered to 10 Downing Street by the International Meat Trade Association, which represents all sectors of the industry other than farmers.

The association wants John Major to take personal charge of a rescue plan. It suggests the Government buy the unwanted beef and keep it in deep-freeze for possible sale in the future if new scientific evidence shows it to be safe.

Letters, page 19

Clinton orders destruction of British cattle in America

By Tom Rhodes in Washington and Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE slaughter of all British cattle exported to America was ordered yesterday as the Clinton Administration launched an investigation into the mysterious human brain illness linked to mad cow disease.

A herd of 113 British cows in 21 states will be incinerated and their brains examined for bovine spongiform encephalopathy while doctors in Minnesota, California, Connecticut and Oregon begin tracking carriers of Creuzfeldt-Jakob Disease, its human form. Both are seen as precautionary measures in the wake of the British crisis. No symptoms of BSE have emerged in biannual monitoring of the cattle which arrived in America before a 1989 ban on British animal imports.

Incidence of CJD, meanwhile is very small and the disease is only known to afflict one in a million Americans every year. But the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention agreed this week that the four states should act as experiments for a universal tracking programme to ensure the immediate recognition of any increase in numbers.

The decision by the CDC comes only weeks after Britain became the focus of world attention after the infection of ten patients with CJD and the demands for the slaughter of thousands of cattle.

American experts, however, have questioned the British Government's belief that mad cow disease was caused by feeding cattle on contaminated sheep carcases.

Experiments carried out by the US Department of Agriculture have failed to reproduce the symptoms of mad cow disease (BSE) after cows were injected with material taken from sheep with scrapie, a related disease.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drug smuggler visits cannabis museum

Britain's first museum devoted to the history and usage of cannabis opened its doors in East London yesterday with a guest appearance by Howard Marks, the former international drug smuggler released from jail in America last year. Police decided to take no action against the museum, but said they would monitor its activities.

Mr Marks said he had come to promote legalisation and was concerned about the stifling of debate. Robert Christopher, 28, a former civil engineer who runs the museum in Shoreditch, said: "We are doing nothing illegal. The one thing you will not find here is the leaves and flowering tops of the plant." The museum displays pipes and other users' materials. Another exhibit shows how cannabis is grown and harvested and there are displays of marijuana posters.

Dunblane gym razed

Workmen moved into Dunblane primary school yesterday to begin demolishing the gym where 16 children and their class teacher were shot dead four weeks ago by Thomas Hamilton. Several parents who lost their children in the tragedy had asked to see the demolition to help with their grieving. Police and social workers arranged to escort them and stay while they watched.

Photocards for drivers

New plastic driving licences carrying a photograph of the holder will be introduced early next year, the Government announced yesterday. The change is part of a European initiative that will include a written examination as part of the driving test. Surveys suggest that 80 per cent of people are in favour of the idea, although there have been fears that it will double up as an identity card.

Cunard sued over reef

The Egyptian Government is demanding £16 million in damages from the Cunard cruise line after the *Royal Viking Star* carved a huge hole in a protected Red Sea coral reef last week. Egyptian officials fear that the damaged area of the Ras Mohammed reef, which harbours rare tropical fish, could take a century to grow back. A Cunard spokesman said: "We are fully insured."

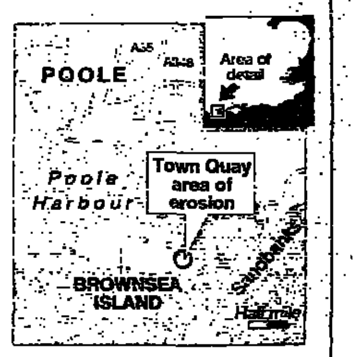
Tube tries safety bounce

London Transport is considering spending £1 million on plastic shields to cover gaps between Tube train carriages to stop passengers falling onto the track as they board. The 1.5m-high barrier is attached to the carriages by straps resembling bungee cords and passengers who fall against them are bounced back onto the the platform. The device will be tested on one Piccadilly Line train next month.

Cup finalist in court

Neil Ruddock, a defender with Liverpool Football Club, is to appear in court charged with obstructing police after a crash involving his sports car in January. Ruddock has been summoned to face Southport Magistrates on May 9, his 28th birthday and two days before Liverpool's FA Cup Final against Manchester United. A 17-year-old girl from Formby, Merseyside, will appear on a similar charge.

Brownsea rescue



Emergency work is to be undertaken to prevent Brownsea Island in Poole harbour, Dorset, from being eaten away by the sea. The National Trust, which since 1961 has owned the 500-acre site where Baden-Powell founded the Scout movement in 1907, is to build an underwater "rock armour", consisting of 10,000 tonnes of boulders, to shore up the crumbling jetty and sea wall. Marine engineers have advised that the structures, and half a dozen cottages behind them, may not survive another winter. Parts of the island's eastern shore are being eroded at the rate of a yard a year. The work, which is expected to cost £250,000, is due to start in September.

Family of 17 evicted

A family of 17 are to be evicted from their council house in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, after 500 complaints. The 50-year-old woman, who has ten children, and her family were given 48 hours to leave by Salford County Court which was told that the family was chronically noisy, threatened violence and was involved in burglary. In 1994 police arrested the woman and described her as "ugly".

Meditate, then cogitate

Scientists at California State University, Long Beach, have discovered that transcendental meditation really does make the brain work better. They have shown that during meditation blood flow in the brain increases significantly, which implies increased mental activity, while ordinary relaxation produces only a tiny increase.

Teachers call for action to curb staffroom bullies

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

TEACHERS will today call for industrial action over the rising tide of school bullying which they say they suffer at the hands of their own head teachers and senior staff.

In a survey carreid out by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, more than 2,000 of the 3,500 teachers who returned questionnaires said they had experienced victimisation at school, often from senior staff but sometimes from governors and parents.

One female respondent from a church school wrote: "The bullying governor is the parish priest and, as such, is unassailable. I have now left."

A male teacher bullied by a female head teacher in a special school said: "She physically hit one member of staff. She wrote 'Dead, dead' on my desk in red chalk. The woman was deranged but no one wanted to deal with it."

The survey received the highest proportion of complaints from teachers in independent schools. A female teacher bullied by a female head in an independent school said: "She employs every method she can to intimidate staff. I have witnessed men leave her office in tears. She drove me to start smoking again. She is becoming more of a megalomaniac as each day passes."

There was also a significant response from women teachers who felt bullied because they were pregnant. One teacher who was scared to go home to look after her sick child, brought her into school in a blanket.

Brian Robinson, who compiled the report, said the union wanted to support "collective resistance" to victimisation.

He said: "We have suddenly become aware of this very serious problem. In a very few cases the bullying resulted in violence to the person and property. It is utterly appalling. If you dealt with children like this everyone would be on your back. But when we deal with each other like this, people say life is like that."

The report, *No Place To Hide*, calls for a series of measures including a new law on workplace bullying and for all schools to set up anti-bullying policies for their staff.

Nigel de Gruchy, the union's general secretary, added: "We should be more than prepared to bring members out in a school if it can be shown a member is being victimised and there is support in the school. Why shouldn't we take action?"

☐ Mr de Gruchy yesterday distanced his union from moves at the National Union of Teachers' conference earlier this week to campaign for a more positive image for lesbians and gays in schools.

"I don't think it is right for a teacher to come into school and say 'I am homosexual or I am heterosexual.' There is a responsibility on schools to keep contentious issues out of the classroom."

Warwick Castle is family favourite

By Robin Young

Warwick Castle: chosen from a list of 160 properties

WARWICK CASTLE was named last night as the historic property in Britain that has done most to involve families in the enjoyment and appreciation of Britain's heritage.

The castle, regarded by many as the finest medieval castle in England, was chosen as winner of *The Times* Family Award from more than 160 properties nominated by members of the public for the NPI National Heritage Awards, the first scheme in Britain devoted to honouring the nation's favourite historic treasures.

The NPI Gold Award, the top prize at last night's awards ceremony at the Café Royal in London, went to Chatsworth, the home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, which had been won the Historic Houses Association category and was declared overall favourite among all the competing properties. The Gold Award was presented by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu at the climax of a gala evening hosted by Angela Rippon. He said: "The NPI National Heritage Awards give a voice to the visitors to our historic properties by enabling them to vote for what they like best." Voting to decide the individual category winners and the winner of the Gold Award was conducted in conjunction with *The Times*.

Kevin McBrien, general manager of the pensions company NPI, which initiated the awards, said: "We were delighted with the response in the first year of the scheme. It proves that as a nation we value our heritage."

The other category winners were Bolsover Castle among English Heritage properties, Fountains Abbey among those belonging to the National Trust, Culzean Castle for the National Trust for Scotland, and Hampton Court among the historic royal palaces.

The site for Warwick Castle was selected and fortified by William the Conqueror in 1068. Over the centuries the castle was home to the Earls of Warwick, who played a key role in the Wars of the Roses, the Hundred Years War and the English Civil War.

Today its commanding battlements and towers, set in 60 acres of grounds and gardens landscaped by Capability Brown, offer a year-round programme of events, including Kingmaker's Feasts, at which visitors enjoy a five-course dinner.

The castle's newest medieval attraction, a presentation based on scenes from the household of Warwick the Kingmaker in 1471, enables visitors to experience the sights, sounds and smells of preparations for battle during the Wars of the Roses, while another wing recreates a Victorian house party as hosted by Daisy Warwick in 1898.

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Police patrolmen catch their chief constable doing 90mph

Gunn: agreed to pay a fixed penalty of £40

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

A CHIEF CONSTABLE was stopped by one of his own traffic patrols and reported for speeding at 90mph on the M11, police said yesterday.

Ben Gunn was noticed on Saturday morning by a patrol as he drove his own Rover 620 near Duxford, Cambridgeshire. Mr Gunn, off duty at the time, was speeding in a stretch with a 70mph speed limit.

The traffic crew put on their blue lights, came up behind the Rover and ordered the Chief Constable to pull over. He promptly stopped and was told he would be reported.

Yesterday Mr Gunn, a police expert on DNA and counter-terrorism, apologised for the incident, which will be considered by his force's police authority. He has already paid a fixed penalty of £40 and will have three penalty points put on his licence.

In a statement he said: "I naturally very much regret that a lapse of concentration resulted in me exceeding the speed limit. I was correctly reported for the offence."

Ed Murphy, a Labour councillor who serves on the police authority, said the incident had to be kept in proportion. Mr Murphy said: "My personal opinion is that it shouldn't endanger his position, although it's a matter for the police authority and we will give the incident serious consideration."

Mr Murphy said: "It's an unfortunate incident, but it does clearly demonstrate that the police officers in Cambridgeshire are acting without favour and carrying out their duties diligently. No doubt everyone learns their lesson when they get a few endorsement points and a fine."

The decision to give Mr Gunn a fixed penalty notice was taken on the spot by one of the constables from the traffic car. Under the penalty notice, the Chief Constable had 28 days to pay the fine or go to court and challenge it.

Cambridgeshire police said officers had a number of choices when stopping a speeding driver. They would look at the speed involved, the type of road and speed limit. They could simply talk to a driver, deliver a formal caution or issue a fixed penalty notice. If the offence was regarded as severe, officers could give the driver a summons to go to court.

Mr Gunn, 52, was appointed Chief Constable on January 1, 1994, after serving as Deputy Chief Constable since November 1991. He has been a policeman since 1963 when he joined the Metropolitan force. In the early 1970s he served as personal protection officer to Robert Carr, who was then Home Secretary in the Heath Government, and spent 26 years with Special Branch, where he dealt in counter-terrorism.

Mr Gunn is the second chief constable to be caught by his own men. In February 1994 Keith Povey, Chief Constable of Leicestershire, was seen driving at 80mph in a 50mph stretch of the M1 at Kirby Muxloe. It was the first day of a campaign by his force against speeding drivers. He was fined £350 and suspended from driving for seven days.

Drugs group urges resignation over 'safe Ecstasy' row

By Gillian Bowditch

SCOTLAND'S most senior social work director has been called upon to resign by drug rehabilitation workers outraged at her remark that the illegal drug Ecstasy is safer than aspirin.

Mary Hartnoll, 56, director of social work for Glasgow, the city with the highest number of drug-related deaths in Scotland, said Ecstasy was "relatively safe" and the risk of dying from a normal dose of aspirin was "very much greater" than dying from Ecstasy.

Miss Hartnoll's claims were made in an internal memo to John Anderson, chief executive of Glasgow City Council, in response to a tough approach to drugs by the council's licensing board. The council, which came into existence on April 1, is trying to formulate a unified policy on drug abuse.

Miss Hartnoll's views, which directly contradict those of the licensing board chairman, James Coleman, are likely to make a common policy for the city impossible, where around 100 people a year die from drug-related causes. Miss Hartnoll said the campaign following the death of Leah Betts, who died after taking Ecstasy on her 18th birthday, used fear as a means of deterring young people from taking drugs but had poor results.

Hartnoll: said Ecstasy was safer than aspirin

"It does not accord with young people's own definition of their own drug using behaviour, which in the great majority of cases is a reasonably pleasurable experience. The irony is that Ecstasy for example is a relatively safe drug — the risk of death has been calculated at one in 6.8 million — (the risk of dying from an ordinary dose of aspirin is very much greater!) and young people tend to know this," Miss Harnoll wrote in her memo.

Paul Betts, the father of Leah, said her remarks were "totally irresponsible". He said American research showed that Ecstasy caused permanent and irreversible brain damage.

David Bryce, director of the Calton Athletic Recovery programme in Glasgow which runs rehabilitation courses, said: "Ecstasy kills and it kills now. People who try Ecstasy build up a tolerance to it and they start using other drugs. Then they stop using Ecstasy and start injecting heroin.

"We are dealing with these realities every day. I'm sick to the back teeth of people who are meant to be well-informed coming out with this sort of rubbish."

Mr Coleman said Miss Hartnoll's remarks "flew in the face" of everything the board was trying to do. "The information we have is that the Ecstasy coming into Glasgow is far from pure. There is everything and anything in it."

A spokesman for the Scottish Office said yesterday: "There is no such thing as a risk-free drug. The misuse of any drug can cause serious harm or lasting damage and even death."

Miss Hartnoll was unavailable for comment yesterday but her views have been defended by some professionals. Dr John Marks, a consultant psychiatrist from Manchester, said her argument was responsible, intelligent, and true.

☐ Last year in Britain, three teenagers died after taking Ecstasy, which is used by an estimated 500,000 people each weekend. Alcohol and tobacco-related deaths were 25,000 and 110,000 respectively.

Highflyer praised for her sensitivity

MARY HARTNOLL is Scotland's most senior director of social work and one of the few women to hold such a high profile job in local government.

Three years ago she beat off five male candidates to win the top social work job in Scotland, the £82,000-a-year post of director of social work for Strathclyde Region. It put her in charge of a budget of more than £300 million and gave her direct responsibility for 22,000 people.

Then with the disbanding of Strathclyde, she got the top social work job with Glasgow City Council, again against fierce competition. She took a drop in salary to £76,776 to reflect the smaller catchment area.

Colleagues praise her commitment, sensitivity and integrity. She inspires loyalty and is known to encourage her juniors. Yet she is no stranger to controversy. Last year Sheriff Colin Miller of Ayr criticised her department for its handling of a child abuse case in which eight Ayrshire children were removed from their families for five years. Miss Hartnoll produced a report into her department's handling of the case that was widely seen as a whitewash.

Scientists hope the overweight mice will help them to identify the human fat gene

Tubby rodents hold clue to obesity of mice and men

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

RESEARCHERS have isolated the gene that makes a breed of mice called tubby put on weight in middle age. The discovery could have wider implications, as this pattern of increasing weight is a familiar consequence of human ageing.

Tubby mice were discovered by accident in 1977, when a random mutation in a strain of laboratory mice created animals which appeared normal when young but gradually put on weight later — though without apparently overeating.

The pattern, says Dr Patsy Nishina of The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, "strongly resembles the late-onset obesity seen in the human population".

Dr Nishina and colleagues have pinned down the genetic flaw that causes the mice to become fat, develop diabetes and suffer eyesight and hearing loss. The gene responsible is mouse chromosome 7, and Dr Nishina and her team have shown that it consists of a single "mispelling" in the sequence of the DNA in the gene.

The result is to produce a protein with a slightly different structure, which interferes with the complex biochemical signals that control appetite and the way in which food is metabolised.

"This is an important step for us toward identifying the defects in tubby mice" Dr Nishina said. "We hope that this will also lead to the discovery of human genes involved in obesity".

The research, published in *Nature*, was carried out in cooperation with Sequana Therapeutics, of La Jolla, California, and the team has applied for a patent. Sequana plans to use the *tub* gene, or the proteins it produces, or other genes in its molecular pathway, as potential targets for drug discovery.

Human obesity is caused by a number of factors, of which a genetic predisposition is only one. But this discovery "opens an avenue to obesity we didn't have" says Dr Jurgen Naggart, one of the research team.

Heckler jailed for attack on Ashdown

By Adrian Lee

A DRUNKEN heckler who attacked Paddy Ashdown with a knife during a walkabout was jailed for a year yesterday. Christopher Mason, 51, unexpectedly changed his plea at Taunton Crown Court and admitted affray.

The Liberal Democrat leader and a friend, the Rev Mark Ellis, had been confronted by Mason in Yeovil, Somerset, as they were on a fact-finding tour of the streets to investigate incidents of racism.

Mr Ashdown, 54, the town's MP, had been due to give evidence against his attacker but the change of plea spared him another appearance in the witness box. At Mason's committal hearing in February he had described the assault.

Charles Whitby, QC, the Recorder, told Mason that the knife attack was "dangerous, reckless and wicked". Mason, who had 24 previous court appearances, admitted affray and using or threatening unlawful violence.

Martin Meeke, for the prosecution, said Mason was extremely drunk when he approached the two men and later produced a flick-knife with a 4in blade. He tried to knee Mr Ashdown in the groin, then lashed out with the knife towards Mr Ashdown's neck. The MP parried the blow and two special police constables, who saw the attack from a pub, arrested Mason.

Neil Ford, for Mason, said there were no racial overtones in the attack and there had been no intention to injure. It was carried out as an act of "drunken bravado". Mason, from Yeovil, had been drunk, he said, but while in Dorchester prison for the past four months had sought help from Alcoholics Anonymous.

At the time of the attack, Avon and Somerset police said Yeovil was suffering an increase in rowdyism, blaming a minority who were intent on causing trouble. Closed-circuit television cameras are due to be installed at a cost of £70,000.

Imtiaz: open verdict recorded by coroner

Boy killed himself to become Lion King

By Kate Alderson

A BOY who hanged himself from a tree was obsessed with the Disney film *The Lion King*, an inquest was told yesterday. Imtiaz Ahmed, 14, left a note saying he was going to die because he wanted to become a Lion King.

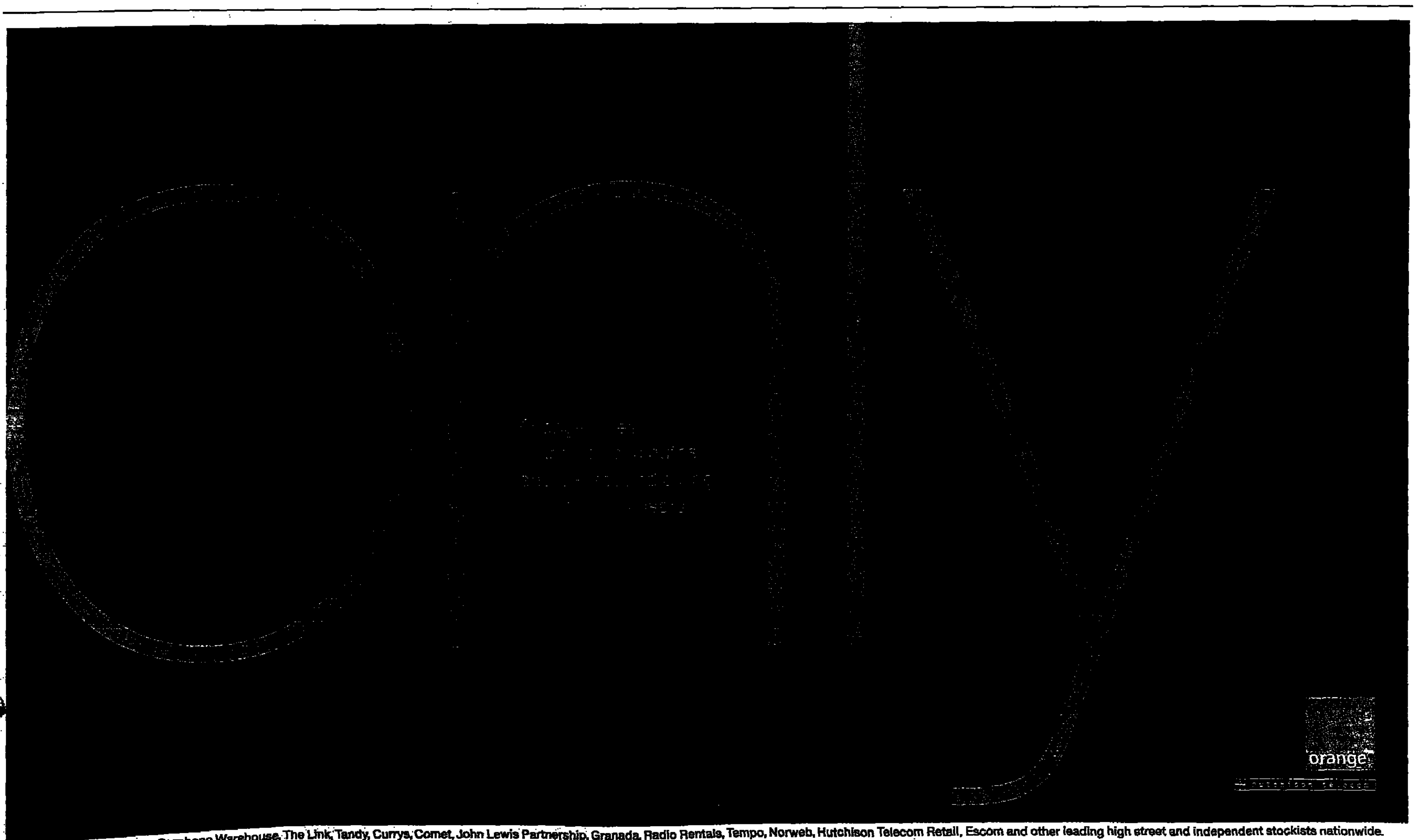
Imtiaz was found hanging from a tree near his home in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, in November last year. John Wain, the coroner at Newcastle-under-Lyme, recorded an open verdict but said he was satisfied the boy had hanged himself.

The note found in Imtiaz's pocket was read out at the hearing. "I'm going to die because I want to be a Lion King. Mum and Dad, please put the Lion King film in my grave with me please."

In the film the Lion King dies and returns in the form of a vision seen by his son.

The coroner said he had watched *The Lion King* on video four times and the case had caused him a great deal of personal heartache. "I am satisfied that he physically hanged himself," he said. "But the problem was his state of mind. Did he intend the consequence of his act?"

He added: "Was it his wish to bring about a metamorphosis, or physical change or rebirth so that he was still Imtiaz Ahmed and the Lion King?"



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SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

John Travolta, John Woo and Hong Kong Hollywood

Forty pages of summer style for men

Paul Heiney's new column for cooks

PLUS
Vision, the seven-day TV and radio guide

Loss of tax relief on saving plans a blow to boarding schools

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

BOARDING schools suffered another blow to pupil numbers yesterday when the Inland Revenue confirmed that thousands of parents are to lose tax concessions on money set aside to pay for their children's education.

From next April, fee plans run by educational trusts will no longer qualify for tax relief, adding hundreds of pounds a year to many savers' costs. The Inland Revenue made the change after the Charity Commission decided that the trusts should be removed from its register.

Up to 15,000 parents use fee plans, which cover about one in 20 children in independent schools. Most are in boarding schools, which have been particularly hard hit by falling numbers.

There was a 4 per cent decline in the number of boarders last year, continuing a long downward trend since records began in 1982, and figures to be released later this month are expected to show another drop. The surprise extra tax burden could hasten the decline.

David Woodhead, director of the Independent Schools Information Service, said the tax changes would affect boarding disproportionately because long-term savers tended to use those schools.

Under fee plans, capital is invested in trusts, allowing interest to build up before parents have to start paying fees. Since 1959, the trusts have claimed back tax paid on the interest and reimbursed savers.

Many parents or grandparents start fee plans as soon as a child is born. Those who have saved for longest will be hardest hit by the loss of tax relief because of the amount of interest they have accumulated.

Trusts are preparing appeals against the ruling. John Lamb, a spokesman for the Sun Life Educational Trust, said: "We find the change inexplicable. There has been no change in the way we operate, and the Inland Revenue has never raised an objection in more than 30 years."

An Inland Revenue spokesman said it had taken its lead from the Charity Commission, which recently conducted an inquiry into such schemes and has decided they should not have charitable status.

Hugh Rogers, a Charity Commission spokesman, said it had looked at school fees payment plans and decided they did not fit in with "today's idea of what is charitable. The benefit from them flows not to the public but to private individuals."

Michael Kirk, secretary of the Boarding Schools' Association, said: "I hope this will not be a major obstacle, but it will be another problem for some of our parents who are trying to find the money for independent schools."

DAVID DYSON

Lucy Needham at Heathrow yesterday. The cause of her illness is unknown

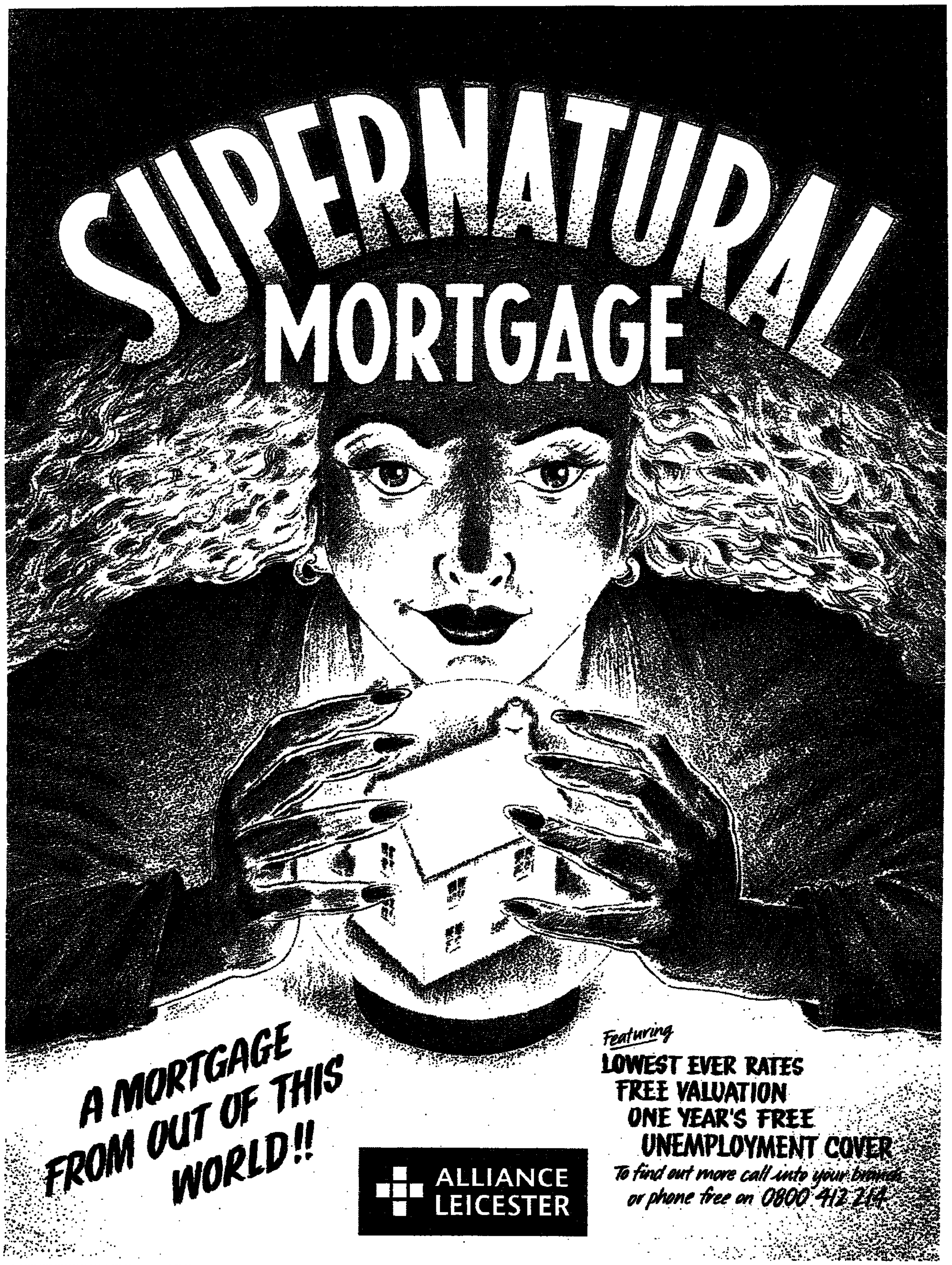
Sick tennis player flies home from India

By Lin Jenkins

THE tennis player taken ill aboard a jumbo jet which was forced to divert to India returned home yesterday. Lucy Needham, 22, hugged and kissed her mother Jill and stepfather John Hobbs when they met her at Heathrow, three days after she should have returned from playing in two tournaments in Java.

She had collapsed an hour after the aircraft left Kuala Lumpur. Pauline Robinson, a nurse, eased Miss Needham's convulsions by holding her head in a cushion cover filled with ice. Tests in India failed to find a cause for the illness.

Miss Needham, who is ranked 30 in Britain, looked pale and tired yesterday. Mr Hobbs, of Newton, Cambridgeshire, said: "We are most concerned about her condition. She has only just gathered the strength to make the flight back to Britain."



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ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Thugs force army cadets to retreat from Warsop HQ

By Paul Wilkinson and Michael Evans

A GROUP of boy soldiers who have suffered two years of vandalism, harassment, street ambushes and abuse have finally been forced to abandon their Army Cadet Force premises.

The persistent victimisation of the cadets aged 13 to 18 by "young thugs" in the Nottinghamshire town of Warsop — and highlighted at other cadet force units in the country — was described yesterday by a senior Army officer as a deliberate attempt to "destroy something which is decent and worthwhile".

The cadets at Warsop are now looking for new premises after their headquarters hut on the outskirts of the town was burnt down by vandals. Colonel Robin Drummond, deputy secretary of the East Midlands Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserves Association which embraces the Army Cadet Force, said the thugs who had driven the cadets from their headquarters appeared to be "beyond the law".

He said: "They don't know right from wrong. They have no respect for other people's property. it's as if they come from another world." Another cadet headquarters hut was burnt down at Harworth in north Nottinghamshire a few months ago.

Colonel Drummond said: "Vandalism is a continuing scourge. The thugs responsible seem to regard cadets as their enemy. They resent these young lads for having fun and enjoying a real challenge."

He said that the cadets were determined to carry on and hoped to lease new headquarters in the centre of town.

Their previous detachment commander, Under Officer Paula Pingree, left after a scaffolding pole was rammed through the side of the hut and just missed her head. She was badly hurt. Later, after her car windscreen was shattered, she was transferred.

She was replaced by Sergeant-Major John Colclough, who finally decided the cadets had to move. He said yesterday: "For two years the cadets have run the gauntlet of violence and crime from a hardcore of around 20 to 30 local youths. Cadets have been regularly threatened with beatings. Vandalism has been rife and there have been three arson attacks in the last month alone."

A number of juveniles are facing charges connected with attacks on the cadets and their building.

2,500 TICKETS TO BE WON FOR THE NEW WOODY ALLEN FILM

Hooked: Linda, played by Mira Sorvino — winner of the Oscar for the best supporting actress —above right, lures Lenny (Woody Allen) away from his marriage to upwardly-mobile Amanda (Helena Bonham Carter)

Win tickets for Mighty Aphrodite

Mighty Aphrodite goes on general release on April 26 (it opens in London this weekend) and *The Times* has 1,250 pairs of tickets to give away for screenings on April 21. For your chance to win two tickets, call the number shown after the cinema you wish to attend with the answer to the question below before midnight tomorrow.

Who won an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in Mighty Aphrodite?

a) Helena Bonham Carter b) Mira Sorvino c) Claire Bloom

SOUTH Odeon, Kingswest, West St, Brighton, 11am, 0891 771 202; Harbour Lights, Ocean Village, Southampton, Noon, 0891 771 203; The Watershed, 1 Canon's Road, Bristol, 11am, 0891 771 204.
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NORTH Odeon, The Headrow, Leeds, 11am, 0891 771 209; Odeon, London Rd, Liverpool, 11am, 0891 771 210; Odeon, Arundel Gate, Sheffield, 11am, 0891 771 211; Cornerhouse Cinema, Oxford St, Manchester, 11am, 0891 771 212; Warner, Manors, New Bridge St, Newcastle, 10.30am, 0891 771 213.

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at other times

SEE THE FILM REVIEW ON PAGE 33

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French face culinary invasion

Conran plans to give Parisians food for thought

By Robin Young and Adam Sage

TWO of London's most successful restaurateurs are planning to teach the French a lesson in modern gastronomy by opening showcase British restaurants in the French capital.

Sir Terence Conran, the creator of Mezzo, Quaglino's and Le Pont de la Tour in London, and Oliver Peyton, the developer of the Atlantic Bar and Grill and Coast, have both been viewing properties in Paris. Mr Peyton is on the point of winning the race to secure the first bridgehead.

Sarah Canet, assistant to Mr Peyton, said yesterday: "We are in the final stages of negotiation for a site for a large restaurant. It will be very exciting. We hope to take Paris by storm."

French restaurateurs, not unnaturally, were sceptical about the challenge, but Sir Terence said: "Paris is ready to be taught some lessons. The French idea still tends to be that there is only one way to run a big brasserie and that is to fit it out with *fin de siècle* decor. I appreciate that look, where it is genuine, but I would certainly not want to go on recreating it for ever more."

Michel Perrochon, owner of the celebrated Brasserie Lipp in St Germain des Prés, said there might be a market for small British restaurants, but not for the large international establishments for which Mr Peyton and Sir Terence were famed. He said: "There is a French proverb that says 'Good at everything, good for nothing'. Whenever I see a restaurant offering cuisine from different parts of the world, I do not go there because I know it will be no good. Any restaurants which have tried to provide global food have been total failures in Paris." Undaunted, Sir Terence confirmed that, like Mr Peyton, he had looked at one large site in the Marais district. Although it was unsuitable, he said: "I would not be scared of opening in Paris. The city is in the depths of recession and property prices are still going down. That can be the right time to strike and a restaurant near the Madeleine would be ideal. The secret of being financially successful is to find a location where there is both lunchtime and evening business."

Ms Canet would not disclose where Mr Peyton's restaurant would be but said it would be similar to the 160-seat Atlantic Bar and Grill, off Piccadilly Circus, which has been described as "an Art Deco air raid shelter". Sir Terence, who has a Conran shop in Paris, said the British could show the French a thing or two about restaurant design. He said: "If we find the right site we will use our own design team as we did with Mezzo and Quaglino's. We are opening in Glasgow next year, so why not Paris?"

Robert Grace, an Australian architect who worked for Mr Peyton on Coast, said yesterday: "Both Terence Conran and Oliver Peyton felt that Paris was ripe for the contemporary, international style of restaurant which is so successful in London."

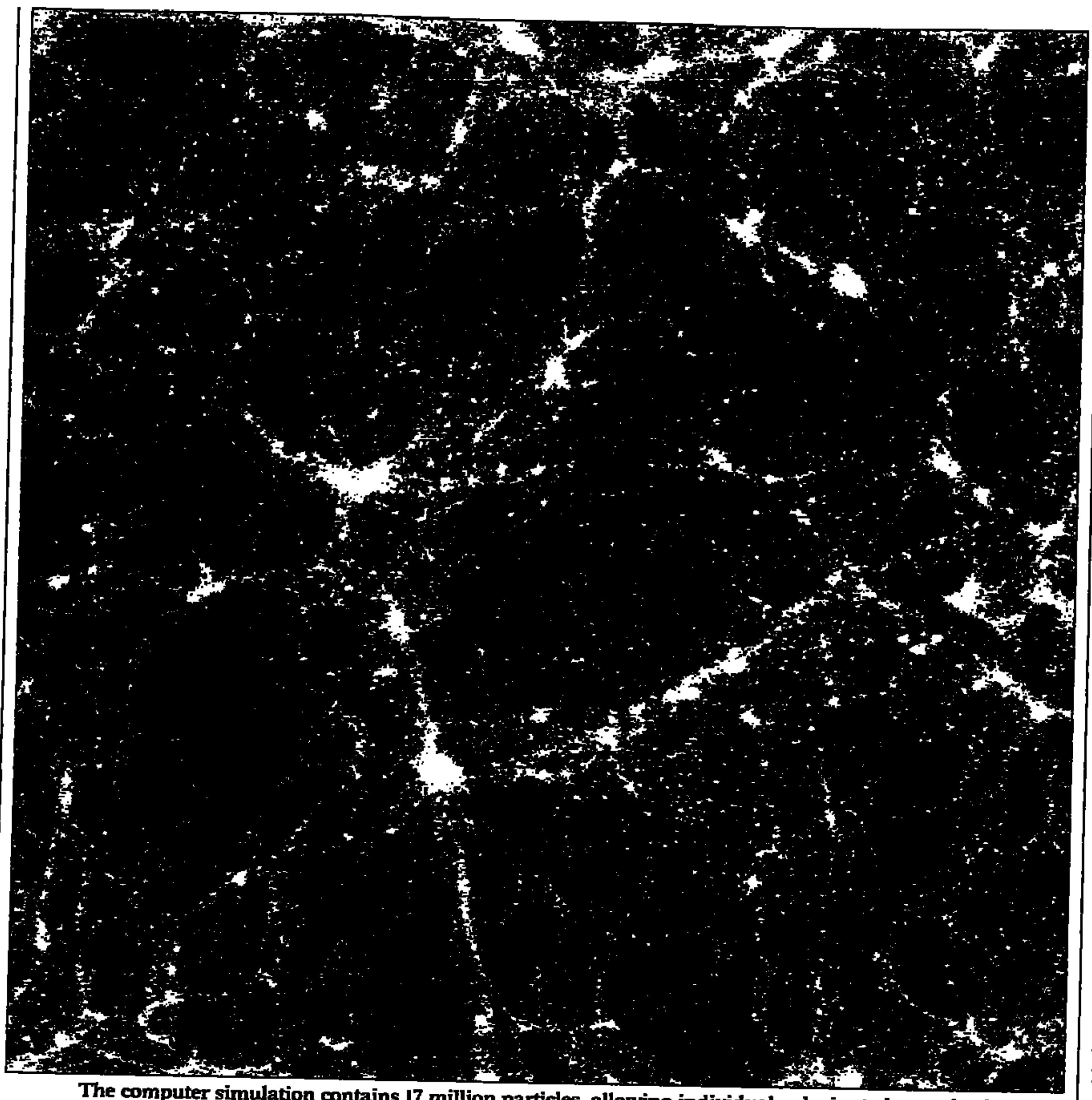
A third London restaurateur who looked at the site in the Marais, but also rejected it, confirmed that he too would still be looking for further opportunities in the French capital. Alan Yau of the hugely successful Wagamama Japanese noodle bars in Bloomsbury and Soho, London, said: "We will be looking again in Paris soon, but for Wagamama we need something more proletarian than the site we saw in the Marais."

Hitherto the best known British restaurant in Paris has been Bertie's, the brainchild of Albert Roux, but that serves British food in a quintessentially British decor of wood panelling, tartan and leather. M Perrochon allowed that Bertie's was "quite successful", though he added: "Britain does not have a great cuisine."

A spokesman for another big Parisian restaurant, Nos Ancêtres les Gaulois, was more optimistic about the Londoners' prospects in Paris. "An international-style restaurant could work if it aims at businessmen," she said. "Tourists and Parisians going out for the evening would not eat there but in the business districts, such as La Défense, there might be a lunchtime clientele."

TWO CITIES

Whereas Paris has 86 Michelin-starred restaurants (five with three stars, 23 with two and 58 with one). London has only 20 (three with three stars, two with two and 15 with one). Paris's most popular large restaurants serve a time-honoured repertoire of traditional brasserie classics, such as *coq au vin* and *pot au feu*, usually in period surroundings. Waiters are middle-aged or elderly and frequently short-tempered. London's modern restaurants by contrast go for sweeping staircases, mirrors and sharp design. The cooking is cosmopolitan, open to transatlantic and oriental influences, and often involves novel juxtapositions of ingredients. Staff are young, enthusiastic and frequently antipodean.



The computer simulation contains 17 million particles, allowing individual galaxies to be resolved

History of the Universe (take II)

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

ASTRONOMERS have rerun the history of the Universe in a computer simulation. They showed how tiny fluctuations in energy in the split second after the Big Bang grew into concentrations of matter — the stars and galaxies — amid vast empty regions of space.

The results are to be reported to the National Astronomy Meeting in Liverpool tomorrow by Professor Carlos Frenk of the University of Durham, the leader of the consortium of British, Canadian and German laboratories involved.

The simulation starts with the tiny "ripples" in the microwave radiation left over from the Big Bang, which have been detected by satellite and, more recently, by ground-based observations. These fluctuations are a consequence of quantum theory and emerged as the embryo Universe expanded at enormous speed in the first fraction of a second.

Ripples grow by attracting and accreting matter. Eventually gas and particles of invisible dark matter condense out and form spinning discs that evolve into galaxies.

The illustration shows the distribution of dark matter in an area of the Universe about a billion light years square. The bright areas are the seeds of today's galaxies and the very smallest structures — some 20,000 times smaller than the entire image — are galaxies roughly the size of the Milky Way.

Professor Frenk says that the simulations probably used more computing power than any undertaking in the history of science, with the exception of defence work. It was possible only because of the development of parallel computers able to carry out billions of arithmetic operations per second.

The team responsible, called the Virgo consortium, is based in Durham and includes astronomers from Sussex, Oxford, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Toronto and the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Munich. They used a Cray-T3D supercomputer in Edinburgh, the largest in Europe, and the second largest, which is in Germany.

'No touch' code for driving instructors

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

DRIVING instructors will be forbidden from making physical contact with pupils except to shake hands or to take the wheel during an emergency under a code of conduct being drawn up by the Driving Standards Agency.

The "no touching" rule aims to restore the reputation of a profession tarnished by a string of high-profile cases of sexual harrassment by rogue instructors of women learner drivers.

But the draft code, which would be voluntary for the 33,000 registered instructors, has already been condemned as excessive and unnecessary by driving instructors' professional bodies. Peter Harvey, chairman of the Motor Schools Association, which represents about 8,000 instructors, said: "In every industry there are a few bad ones who always give the good ones a bad name. No driving instructor worth his or her salt is going to set out to deliberately touch a pupil."

Male driving instructors have long been saddled with a sexually aggressive image. A survey in the late 1980s found that one in five had made a pass at a woman pupil.

A note to the draft code advises instructors that "physical contact can be misconstrued" and suggests that "if it is absolutely necessary to place a hand on the pupil's on the steering column or gear lever, the instructor should explain in advance why this is necessary and ask if the pupil objects". It adds: "If they do not, the contact should be kept to a minimum."

Brian Austin, the agency's chief registrar of driving instructors, defended the proposed code as representing "an ordinary, decent and honest way of doing business".

Writing in the agency's newsletter *Despatch*, he warned that without it "any claim that the industry may have to be regarded as professional would be seen to be built on sand".

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Archbishop of Canterbury warns synod that Church is always 'one generation away from extinction'

Report urges elders to close cultural gap with youth

By Ruth Gledhill and Lin Jenkins

THE decline in church attendance among young people seems to be accelerating, according to the Bishop of Carlisle, who chaired the working party which is to tell the General Synod that youth attendance has dropped dramatically in seven years.

The Rt Rev Ian Harland, describing the picture as "bleak", said it was partly a result of a general cultural change which saw young people abandoning many organisations. He said the failure to keep the young in congregations was largely due to the cultural gap between the Church and its traditions and the young people of today. "It is a matter of getting to the point where we can meet and explore common ground."

While encouraging alternative forms of service, he urged that they be properly supervised to avoid such scandals as the Nine O'Clock Service and its unacceptable practices.

"What went wrong in Sheffield was a lack of accountability by people probably given too much freedom and a lack of supervision. It ran out of control. But the last thing we want is for what happened in Sheffield to prevent these kind of initiatives taking place."

Bishop Harland: sees the outlook as bleak

The report's recommendations to the synod include spending more money. Young people account for a third of the population but not a third of church budgets.

It says attempts should be made to develop and promote innovative forms of worship, but within a strict framework of support and accountability. Churches should be able to find out how other successful schemes are run and seek help from those trained in setting them up and running them.

Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, says in the foreword to the report that the Church is always "one generation away from extinction". "We are called upon, as a Church, to proclaim the faith 'afresh in each generation'. My hope is that this report will stimulate us to do precisely that, so that many thousands of young people may come to find, as I did over 40 years ago, that excitement of a living relationship with Christ."

Martha Middlemiss, a 17-year-old from the Vale of Evesham who serves on her local parochial church council and has twice attended synod, said there was no single solution to the problem. "A lot of attempts to provide something for the young stop at wheeling out a guitar. Young people want different things."

The Bishop of Carlisle is a family man who has had an abiding interest in the issues facing young people for many years. He has led youth camps and pilgrimages throughout his ministry. Of his four children, aged 21 to 27 and unmarried, only the eldest is a regular churchgoer. The others attend church occasionally. Two are teachers, one is a chef and the youngest a secretary.

Leading article, page 19

MARY EVANS PICTURE LIBRARY

The days when children attended Sunday classes to receive instruction in the Catechism are long passed

Raikes's progress eroded by secular fun factor

By Alan Hamilton

HAULING children off the streets and into church has exercised the minds of the well-intentioned at least since the late 18th century when Robert Raikes, a Gloucester newspaper publisher, instituted the Sunday School movement.

Raikes feared that the youth of the Industrial Revolution, who toiled in factories for six days each week, would turn to a life of crime if left uneducated in the ways of righteousness on the Sabbath. He opened his first Sunday school in 1780; by the time of his death in 1811, a reported 500,000 children were attending Sunday classes to receive instruction in the Catechism and in basic literacy.

Sunday schools spread through the Anglican, Presbyterian and nonconformist communities as the 19th century progressed. Children of a far more recent generation have memories of Sundays spent on the hard chairs of a church hall crayoning pictures of Noah's Ark.

Five years ago the Church of England produced a report, *All God's Children*, which concluded in essence that traditional Sunday schools had all but had their day. An entire secular life had woken up to Sunday as a day of rest from work, and therefore a day of fun. The report's authors calculated that in 1991 some 14 per cent of those aged 15 and under in England, nearly one million children, were involved in some kind of church-related activity on a Sunday. They recognised a sharply declining trend, and suggested all manner of clubs, sports evenings and other non-Sunday treats to lure the young back into the fold.

Although there is some evidence that individual churches have found success yesterday's report suggests that the Anglican community is losing its battle to retain new customers.

Declining appeal is felt by all faiths

By Ruth Gledhill

THE Church of England and the Jewish community are the first religious bodies to produce evidence of what is a widespread trend.

Monsignor Kieran Conry, spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church, said the loss of young people was being felt in his as in all the churches, although central figures had not been collated to establish the scale of the decline.

The Catholic Church's Birmingham diocese leads the field in working with young people, employing four priests and four lay members in this area. For 50 years, a centre in Stratford-upon-Avon has run week-long courses for teenagers and parish groups visit at weekends. The centre has proved so successful that in July the diocese is opening another near Alton Towers.

Father John Seeney, who runs the centre, said: "Young people find the Church very insignificant in their lives. Society does not see spiritual values as central to life, and maybe the church environment is not attractive to them. But I think there is a great hunger among young people for God, and for something deeper.

"Music is very important here, and the young people go home singing songs and hymns."

Britain's 300,000-strong Jewish community is also fighting the loss of its youngsters on a tide of secularisation and assimilation. Nearly half of Anglo-Jewish men aged under 30 have a non-Jewish partner, according to the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, and nearly half of under-35s do not belong to a synagogue.

The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, launched Jewish *Continuity*, a body which aims to keep young people wedded to the Jewish faith with a series of educational and other programmes.

Most synagogues have classes where youngsters are taught Hebrew and the reasons behind ancient Jewish traditions. Increasing numbers of synagogues of all traditions are holding more social events and special services for youngsters.

The Methodist Church, which has an active core membership of people under 26, last year accepted a radical charter for change. The young people themselves put forward *Charter 96*, which called for churches to develop the use of audio, video, drama, visual aids and a full range of music in worship. "Make the message relevant," it said.

Young approach that works well

Examples of successful initiatives among young people include:

Alternative worship: with names like The Late Service, *Be Real, Wild Hope* and Cooking Something Different, these services can no longer be categorised as raves in the nave: They feature electronic and pop music, multicoloured screens, humour, storytelling, drama, dance, film and video. Most are phenomenally successful but Sheffield's Nine O'Clock Service was an example of how they can go horribly wrong without accountable leadership.

The Rave In the Nave: an ecumenical event which takes place annually in Ely Cathedral on a June Friday night, attracting at least 1,000 people. The programme has included *live bands on a stage under* the cathedral's octagon, a fashion show, non-alcoholic bar, puppet theatre and fringe music. The climax comes at midnight with an hour of alternative worship.

The Hit Squad: a group of young people aged 18-plus who visit different parishes each weekend and work with local youngsters to organise that Sunday's worship, adding drama, dance, music and prayers.

The Greenbelt Arts Festival: Samantha Fox, born-again convert and former Page 3 model, once performed at this August Bank Holiday Christian arts festival which attracts up to 25,000 people.

Music and worship workshops in the York diocese: dozens of youngsters experiment with Christian worship and music.

Crusaders: Christian-*based holidays with activities*, sport and excursions.

Vicar recruits youth worker to turn the tide of apathy

By Joanna Bale

IN 1975 Joanne McGregor joined the thriving youth club at her local church. She was 20 and had just moved to the area, but soon met dozens of friends her own age through the club, which they called the YPF, short for Young People's Fellowship.

About 25 people in their late teens and early twenties would meet every Saturday and Sunday night to play games, listen to music, have quizzes and Christian-based discussions. Now a 42-year-old mother, she said yesterday: "It was a really lively, active group and I loved it — I even met my husband there."

The club, based at St Cuthbert's Church in Wood Green, north London, disbanded five years ago through lack of interest and there is no youth club for the over-15s any longer.

Mrs McGregor, who ran the group in its last years, explained: "It was getting to the point where many of the members were in their late twenties and even in their thirties — the younger ones just weren't coming through."

The vicar at St Cuthbert's is determined to change that and has recruited a full-time youth worker. The Rev David Daley is preparing for Jeremy Squires, who is in his early twenties, to live in a purpose-built flat at his vicarage.

Mr Daley, 46, said: "We only have four or five people in the 15 to 20 age range who come to services, but you only have to look around the streets to see the need.

"In this area there are four council estates where there are young people who roam the streets getting themselves into trouble and I feel that the Church has an enormous role to play in giving them hope. I hope a youth worker will bridge the gap."

The Rev David Daley and Alex, his daughter

Mr Daley, who has a congregation on average of 200 in his 8,000-strong parish, said: "The trend has been one of general decline in the numbers of young people coming to church, which seems to have started in the 1960s. Jeremy will hopefully reverse that trend here because he is young and understands where young people are coming from."

Alex, Mr Daley's 19-year-old daughter, said that being a young Christian was not considered "trendy" by most of her peers. "You sometimes feel that you are an oddball and you start doubting that there is anything in it because so few of your friends share your beliefs, although God has always brought me back. The stereotypical church-goer is dull and boring so it is hardly surprising that young people are not interested. There is a really bad stigma attached to it."

Alex, who is studying Arts at Middlesex University, recently went to the Easter Spring Harvest Festival at Butlins in Minehead, which was attended by 4,000 young Christians. "This sort of event is in touch with young people's lives. They use film, video and dance to praise God and to teach. In this sense the Church is moving forward in a massive way."

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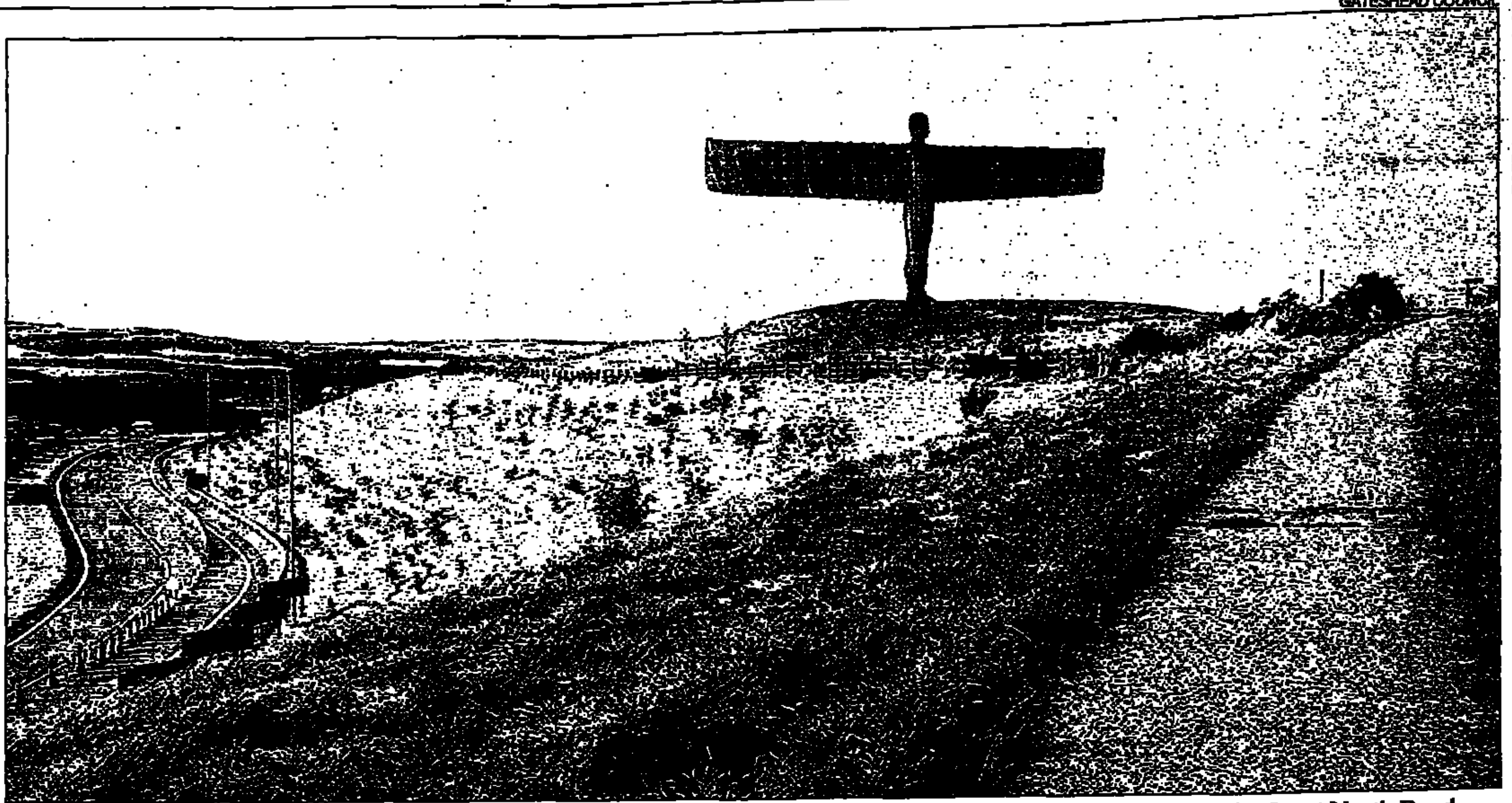
Opponents outraged by £584,000 handout for Gateshead's monumental creation

Lottery cash feeds anger over artist's steel angel

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

GATESHEAD COUNCIL



A photo-montage showing how Antony Gormley's angel sculpture will appear to drivers arriving in Gateshead on the Great North Road

A CAMPAIGN to stop a massive sculpture being placed in a run-down area of Tyneside gathered momentum yesterday with news of a £584,000 grant from the National Lottery.

The idea of a 65ft-high flying steel angel with a 175ft wing span being sited on the outskirts of Gateshead has divided the community. Objectors expressed outrage over the estimated cost last year, which was then £300,000. The overall budget has increased to almost £800,000.

Gormley: denied that project was expensive

The fact that the sculptor is Antony Gormley, a leading figure in the contemporary art world who won the 1994 Turner Prize, has done little to placate the objectors.

The "Stop the Statue" campaigners cannot understand how so much money can be spent on a sculpture and the surrounding landscaping when the casualty department of one of the area's main hospitals is being closed and when the community cannot afford to replace playground swings removed after they failed safety checks.

More than 4,500 residents had signed a petition against the statue, said Noël Rippeth, a Liberal Democrat who has led opposition to the scheme on Gateshead council. "And that was on just two Saturday mornings. People were actually queueing to sign it." Jonathan Wallis, a member of the council's arts and public places sub-committee, said: "It was the fastest rate of collection of any petition I've ever known. Normally, you've got to stop them and ask them."

Dr Wallis said: "The North East has the highest level of people purcashing lottery tickets. This is what we're getting in return. Is it really worth it?"

The lottery grant will be announced by the Arts Council today. A further £45,000 will come from Northern Arts and £150,000 from the European Regional Development Fund. The campaigners argue that the development fund should be used for job-creation schemes and that council taxpayers will have to meet the maintenance costs. The sculpture will cost £350,000; the rest will be spent on landscaping.

Frank Hindle, another councillor, said: "If the Arts Council want it so much, why don't they put it up in London where they can have the dubious pleasure of seeing it every day. We don't want it."

Work has not yet started and the protesters doubt whether it will be ready in time to serve its original purpose as the centrepiece of the 1996 Year of the Visual Arts. They also fear the sculpture will distract motorists on the A1 and Mr Hindle believes television reception might be disrupted.

Gateshead council said a *model of the sculpture had* provoked as many positive comments as negative ones. "No one says it is boring. It stirs up strong feelings."

Supporters see the angel as a symbol of peace that will attract an estimated 150,000 people a year to Gateshead. Gormley, born in 1950, said: "Art, particularly public art, is always a lightning rod for social disease. I think that, if you took a real poll, there would probably be an unusually high percentage in favour and then a few people who have been inveigled by misinformation and political interests to complain."

He has received several letters of support. "They said how marvellous it was to have a bold and clear image with which Gateshead can be identified. It's always been in the shadow of Newcastle." He conceded that television reception at three blocks of flats might be affected but said a deflector would be fitted. A study in Scotland had concluded that roadside sculptures increased alertness. He disputed that the £350,000 cost of the sculpture was high, explaining that it required complex structural engineering. A sculpture covering 4,000 sq ft needed to be properly anchored.

"Is it a lot? It is a very large object. You couldn't build a house 175ft by 65ft high for this price. I don't think it's expensive. I'm afraid England is rather backward in *these* things, going over the old arguments of whether a school or a zebra crossing is of more use to the community than a piece of art."

Treasure hunters fined over pottery

Three treasure hunters who took ancient pottery from a protected prehistoric hill fort were fined £200 each yesterday by magistrates in Swindon.

The two men and a woman set out with a metal detector hoping to find Roman swords but instead took 37 broken pottery pieces from the site at Barbury Castle, near Swindon, Wiltshire.

Crystal Butler, 35, and Darryl Bowen, 31, of Swindon, and Jason Sergeant, 27, of Highworth, Wiltshire, admitted removing objects of archaeological interest without consent.

Surfing for all

Computer kiosks should be as accessible as public telephones to ensure that everyone, irrespective of age or income, can surf the Internet, the National Consumer Council says. Computer terminals should be provided at libraries, hospitals and community centres "to make the information society inclusive rather than exclusive".

Appeals fail

A Bulgarian court yesterday rejected an appeal by two British lorry drivers convicted of drug trafficking, a legal official said. John Mills, 51, and Peter Hobbs, 42, were each sentenced to 7½ years in prison in February after authorities said they had discovered 44lb of heroin in their vehicles at the Turkish-Bulgarian border.

Unholy water row

A complaint from the Roman Catholic Church about mail-order advertisements for statues of the Virgin Mary in holy water has been upheld by the Advertising Standards Authority. Chartsearch of Islington, London, describing itself as the Lourdes Research Organisation, claimed that the statues would bring better prospects.

Rushdie on sale

The Indian Government has approved the sale of Salman Rushdie's novel, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, eight months after a customs officer ordered the importers to suspend distribution. A character in the book is said to bear an unflattering resemblance to Bal Thackeray, the leader of the Hindu nationalist Shiv Sena party.

Off the rails

A 25-tonne army vehicle toppled off a railway convoy at the official launch of a reopened line. The driver escaped unhurt when the Warrior rolled down an embankment after a loading problem. The 22-mile railway line previously served a quarry at Redmire, North Yorkshire, but has been restored for Catterick army base.

CORRECTION

Bristol regains its status as a city and county in the local government reorganisation which took effect this month (report, April 1).

Police cleared of blame over Asian riots in Bradford

By Paul Wilkinson

AN ASIAN family are to sue police for assault after an inquiry cleared officers of blame for the incident which sparked rioting and unrest in Bradford last summer.

Although the Police Complaints Authority found yesterday that allegations were based on rumour and were without foundation, the Iqbal family are to bring civil proceedings for damages against two constables from the West Yorkshire force who, they claim, assaulted four of them, including a baby girl, her mother and grandmother.

As news of the alleged assault and the arrest of four Asian youths spread on June 9, people in the largely Asian district of Manningham took to the streets, burning cars and property and causing damage estimated at £1 million. For the next two nights riot police and scores of young men were involved in an uneasy stand-off outside the police station where the four youths were detained.

The PCA said that after a nine-month investigation it had decided that no officer should be disciplined. However, one of the two constables involved in the alleged assault incident should receive advice and retraining.

John Cartwright, PCA deputy chairman, said that despite a number of serious allegations against the officers, none had been substantiated. Of the 22 complaints made, eight were withdrawn when the claims came under detailed scrutiny.

Caroline Mitchell, one of the PCA inquiry team, said: "We know how perceptions of events can become distorted when a person is caught up in violence. With the exception of one officer who wrongly executed his power of arrest we have found no evidence of wrong-doing by any officer. In particular the medical evidence does not support the various allegations of assault."

Aurangzeb Iqbal, solicitor for the family who were allegedly attacked by police, said: "Civil proceedings will be issued against the police for damages. The claim will be formulated in the next few weeks and a writ will be issued. The claim will be against specific officers, but the police force will be the defendant."

☐ Asian community leaders in Birmingham yesterday blamed intimidation and heavy-handed treatment by police over parking fines for disorder in the Alum Rock district on Tuesday night.

Leeson: air stewardess

Lisa Leeson gets Virgin airline job

LISA LEESON, the wife of the jailed Barings trader Nick Leeson, is joining Richard Branson's airline Virgin Atlantic as a junior flight attendant, it was announced yesterday.

It is thought that the job will entitle Mrs Leeson, 27, to cheaper flights that will allow her to visit her husband, serving 6½ years in Singapore for fraud and forgery, more frequently.

Virgin said that her application to the airline had succeeded because of her "merits, personality and skills". Mrs Leeson, from West Kingsdown, Kent, has worked at a tearoom since returning from Singapore.

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Staffordshire South East: Government braces for thirty-fifth successive poll defeat

By-election takes Major to brink of minority rule

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

WHEN the Conservatives won their surprise general election victory in 1992 party leaders knew that deaths were likely to whittle away their 21-seat overall majority. Few considered the possibility that defections would effectively wipe it out.

John Major might have expected to soldier on with a working majority until the last practical date for an election, May 1, 1997, despite the death of seven of his MPs since the election. But the prospect of minority government has become a reality because of the defections of Alan Howarth to Labour and Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats and Peter Thurnham's resignation of the Tory whip.

If, as expected, the Tories lose the Staffordshire South East by-election today, it will be the thirty-fifth successive defeat since their last by-election victory, in February 1989. Within a year of Mr Major's general-election triumph, questions were asked about his leadership when the party was crushed in the Newbury by-election. Judith Chaplin, previously Mr Major's political secretary, had won the seat with a 22,000 majority at the general election. But she died in February 1993 and at the by-election the Liberal Democrats swept in by a margin of 12,300.

Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch, one of the Tories' ten safest seats, died a week later. Robert Hayward, a former Tory MP and confidant of Mr Major, was picked to fight the seat. Mr Hayward, a psephologist whose figures were used by Conservative Central Office in the run-up to the 1992 election, badly miscalculated in Christchurch. The Tories' 23,000 majority vanished and Diana Maddock took the seat for the Liberal Democrats with a 16,433 majority on a 35 per cent swing.

Worse was to come. Stephen Milligan, one of the brightest members of the 1992 intake, was found dead in his London home, dressed in suspenders and stockings. His death was at the peak of the back-to-basics crisis. His 17,700 majority in Eastleigh, Hampshire, was overturned by the Liberal Democrats' David Chidgey, who gained a 9,239 majority.

The death in October 1994 of Dr John Blackburn, Tory MP for Dudley West, gave the new Labour leader, Tony Blair, a chance to test his electoral appeal. He was not disappointed. His party captured the seat on December 10 with a 20,000 majority. The 29 per cent swing was the biggest from Tory to Labour since 1935. The victory, in the crucial West Midlands election battleground, finished a dismal year for Mr Major.

Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the colourful former Solicitor-General for Scotland, died in February 1995 after a long illness. His majority in Perth had been a vulnerable 2,094 and the Scottish National Party prevailed over Labour with a 7,000 majority while the Conservatives trailed in third.

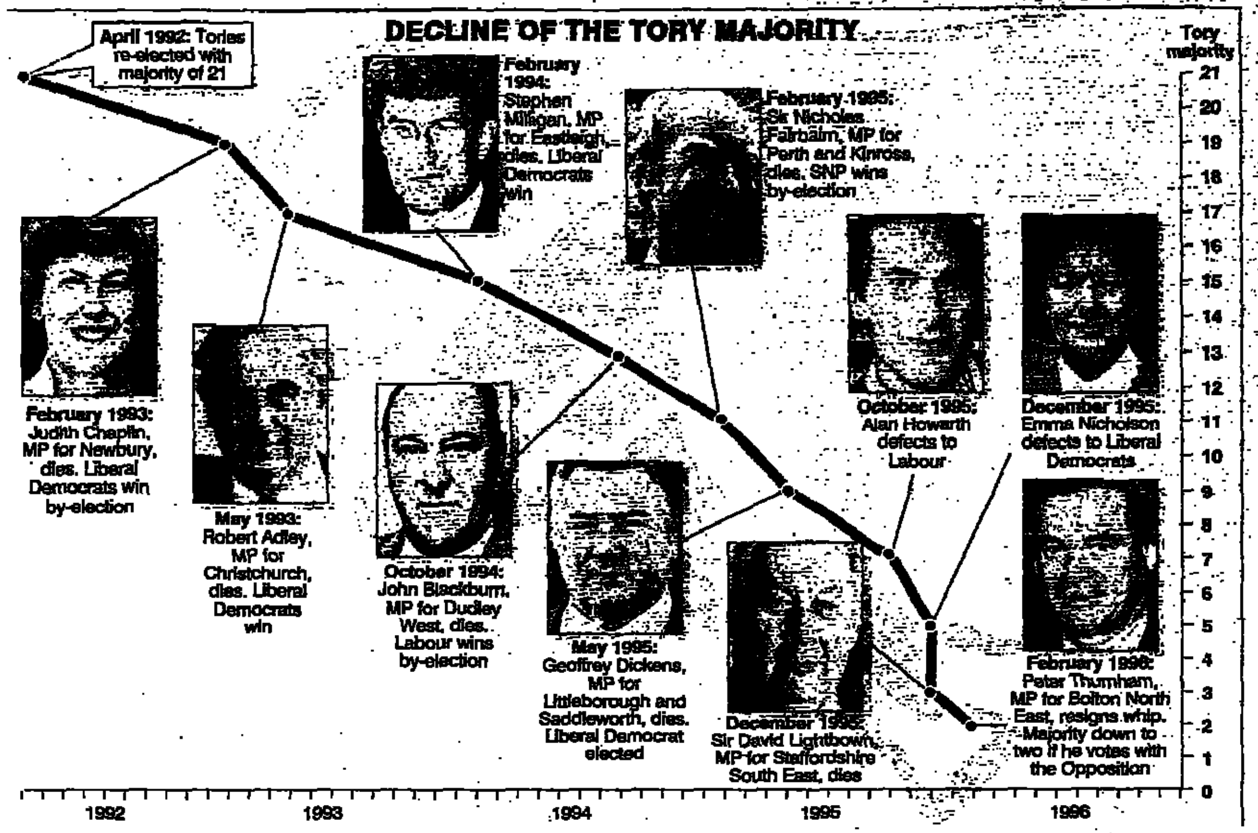
Geoffrey Dickens, one of the most outspoken MPs, died after a long illness in the July. His 6,200 majority in Littleborough and Saddleworth disappeared with a 12 per cent swing to the Liberal Democrats. The Tories were once again pushed into third.

The most telling blows to Mr Major's authority came in October 1995 when Alan Howarth crossed the floor to Labour, enraging party officials in his Stratford-on-Avon constituency where he had a 22,900 majority. Emma Nicholson, one of the most high-profile women in the Commons, dismayed the Tory high command when she moved to the Liberal Democrats in December.

The defections dealt another shattering end-of-year blow to the Prime Minister. His misery was compounded soon after with the death of Sir David Lightbown, the Staffordshire South East MP. In February this year Peter Thurnham, the member for Bolton North East, resigned the whip, reducing the Tory majority to two. Mr Thurnham, who has a majority of 185, was aggrieved at being overlooked for a safer seat.

Using standard mortality tables and the age and profile of Tory MPs, up to four more are expected to die this year. Research by the actuaries Lane, Clark and Peacock has indicated that there are likely to be two further deaths by mid-summer. With the Tory by-election record, the party could find itself with a minority of three by the end of the summer recess. Mr Major can, however, draw comfort from the experience of the 1974-79 Labour Government, which lost its majority of three in 1976. The Government was defeated no fewer than 42 times before the loss of a vote of confidence sealed the fate of the Callaghan administration in 1979.

☐ **General election 1992:** D.L. Lightbown (C) 29,180; B. Jenkins (Lab) 21,988; N. Penlington (Lib Dem) 5,540; majority 7,192.



Seminars on Labour tax plans ridiculed

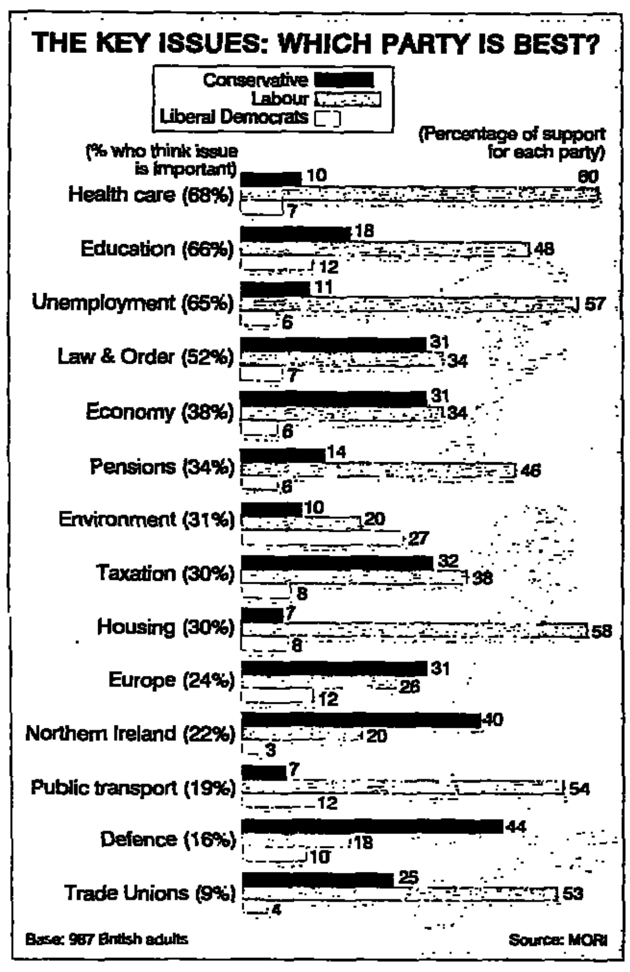
By Arthur Leathley

GORDON BROWN, the Shadow Chancellor, yesterday criticised business seminars which speculated about Labour's tax plans and said they were "a waste of money".

The accountancy firm KPMG is arranging seminars to brief businessmen on possible tax increases under a Labour Government. A company study suggests that Labour might introduce a top rate of tax of 60 per cent and that people who earn more than £40,000 a year would have less disposable income under Labour.

Senior Labour figures are bracing themselves for a wave of similar business briefings. Mr Brown said: "People who write these studies have no knowledge of our tax plans and they are making money speculating about them. It is not a good use of businessmen's money to go to a company organising seminars which has no knowledge of Labour's tax plans."

He refused, however, to rule out tax rises under a Labour Government. "Tax proposals will be announced in our manifesto," he said. "We will look at the economic situation as it develops."



Base: 987 British adults

Source: MORI

Tories trail on main issues for general election

By Peter Riddell

LABOUR has the best policies on ten of the 14 most important issues for the next general election, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll shows that Labour is well ahead on economic and social issues, which voters regard as most important for their votes. The Tories are ahead only on foreign policy questions such as Europe and defence, which are placed lower down the list.

People were shown a list of issues and asked which they regarded as most important for their votes. Health care is mentioned by 68 per cent, followed by education and unemployment, a couple of points behind. Law and order is mentioned by over 50 per cent, the economy by nearly 40 per cent and pensions by 34 per cent. Europe comes tenth, regarded as important in deciding votes by less than 25 per cent of those interviewed. Trade unions come bottom of the list, mentioned by less than 10 per cent.

Of the issues singled out by people as being the most important — health, education and unemployment — Labour has a huge lead over the Tories as the party with the best policies. The gap is much narrower on law and order, the economy and taxation.

The four issues in which Labour is not in the lead are Europe, Northern Ireland and defence, in which the Tories are in the lead, and the environment, in which the Liberal Democrats are seen to have the best policies.

Tory strategists will regard their small lead on Europe — 31 to 26 per cent — as a vindication of their recent tilt in a sceptic direction and of ministers' strong assertion of national interests. However, the gap is a narrow one and the issue is given a fairly low priority. Defence and Northern Ireland also remain strong issues for the Tories but are seen as low in importance.

On most issues, it is the middle-aged who have the strongest preference for Labour's policies.

It is also revealing that Labour is now well ahead with regards to trade unions, an area of both importance and strength to the Tories during the 1980s.

Indeed, Tony Blair is currently telling American business in New York that Labour is seeking to build on Thatcherism, not trying to reverse it, and that the Thatcher Government did two things right: it revived a spirit of enterprise and created a legal framework for the operations of trade unions.

The Tories must either increase the salience of the defence and Northern Ireland issues to more voters, or turn the tide of public opinion on those in which Labour leads. Nearly 50 per cent the electorate decide which party to vote for mainly on their perception of the parties' stance on issues of importance to them.

☐ *MORI interviewed 987 adults at 71 ward sampling points between March 22 and 25. Interviews were conducted face to face in homes.*

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City offers Labour historic Guildhall for London body

By Andrew Pierce
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S historic Guildhall is being offered to the Labour Party as a home for the elected body with which it is planning to replace the former Greater London Council.

In a spirit of co-operation between Tony Blair and the City, the Corporation of London, which governs the square mile, is willing to share its 15th-century building with Labour's proposed Greater London Authority.

The offer is a powerful endorsement for the party's plans for a strategic authority. The GLA would have no revenue-raising powers and would be financed by savings from the winding-up of quangos which replaced the GLC. The Guildhall is arguably a more significant home than County Hall, the imposing former GLC building which looks across the Thames to the Palace of Westminster.

The GLA, which would be made up of elected councillors from every London borough or parliamentary constituency, would lead to the capital's first directly elected mayor, following the example of New York or Paris. The Corporation's Lord Mayor of London, a symbolic figure who harks back to Dick Whittington, will continue to live at the Mansion House.

Dobson: said views of Londoners were sought

Only a few years ago Labour was committed to the abolition of the corporation, which is the only local council to retain the business vote. In two wards there is not a single residential voter.

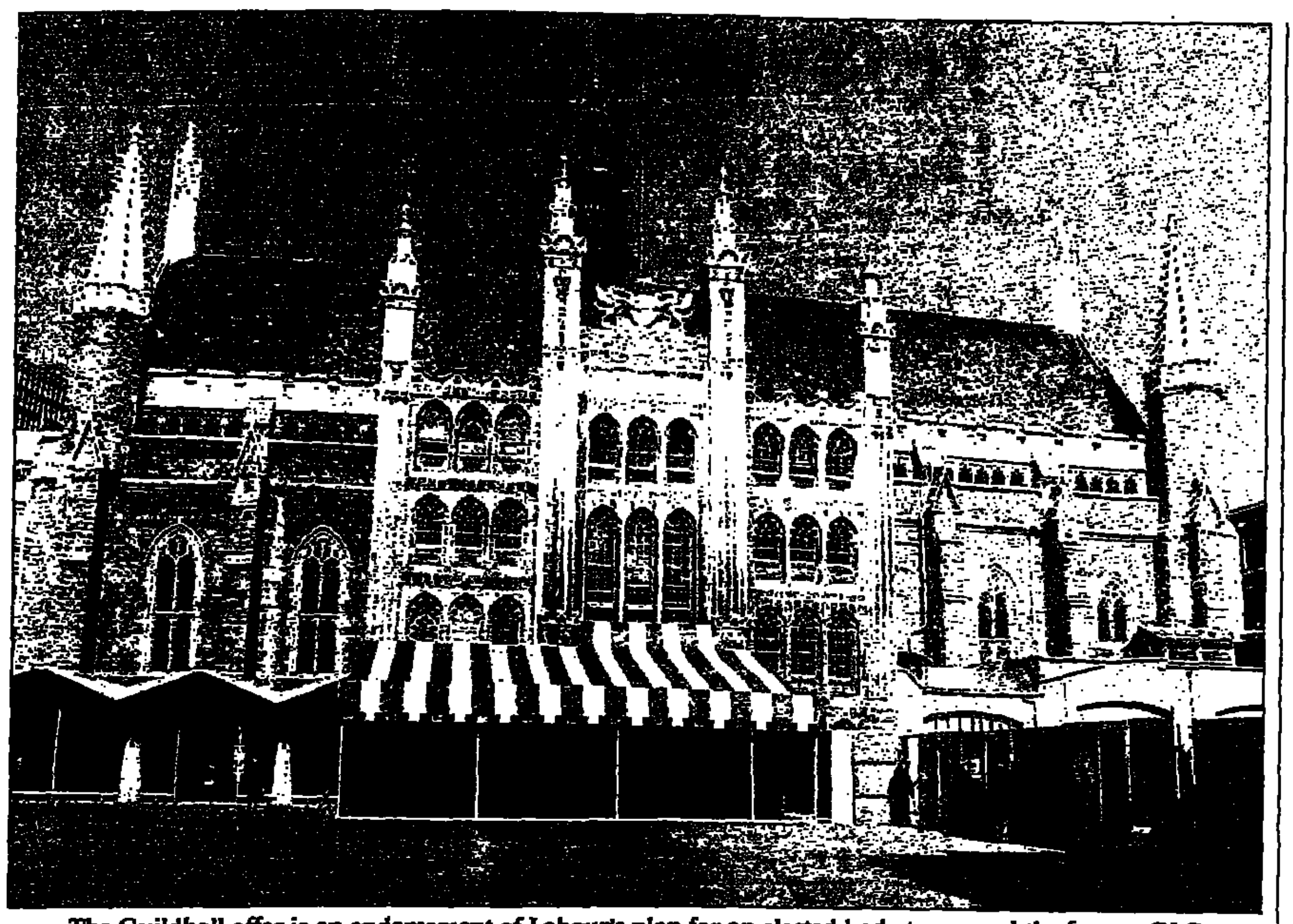
The corporation wins its reprieve in Labour's consultation document released yesterday, *A Voice for London*. It secured a stay of execution after spending millions of pounds on environmental and housing projects in neighbouring inner-city boroughs such as Southwark and Hackney.

Michael Cassidy, chairman of the corporation's policy and resources committee, said: "We have had a letter from the London Labour Party seeking our agreement for co-operation to share the premises as a home for the new Greater London Authority.

"We will look at this very sympathetically. Guildhall has an aura of history about it. We are prepared to share our chamber for meetings. We will make office space available for the elected mayor and for the administration of the authority. We will be delighted to work together.

"Some Labour MPs would have kicked our mayor out of the Mansion House and taken over Guildhall. Our Lord Mayor, who is a non-political figure, cannot be a threat to an incoming GLA."

The proposal for a directly elected mayor, enthusiastically supported by Tony Blair, is fraught with difficulties. If Labour adopts the New York option the mayor, who will be chosen by an electorate of about seven million, could be elected from the party in opposition on the GLA. However, the Labour leadership is also looking at the French system, where the leader of the ruling party automatically becomes the mayor.



The Guildhall offer is an endorsement of Labour's plan for an elected body to succeed the former GLC

Frank Dobson, the Shadow Environment Secretary and party spokesman on London, said at the launch of the policy document: "We are seeking the views of Londoners on whether London should have an elected mayor with some executive powers. This system has worked well for many European cities. I believe that Londoners will go for the idea of an elected mayor."

The GLA will have a limited number of staff who will be headhunted from quangos, such as the London Docklands Development Corporation. The GLC employed 15,000 people.

Services such as the police, transport and fire service will be supervised by boards with more than half the members drawn from the GLA. Mr Dobson said it would be financed by savings on the millions of pounds being spent by unaccountable quangos.

"This should result in considerable cost-savings on administration. Our proposed London authority will mean more effective representation — a real voice for London and better value for money."

The Metropolitan Police would report to a London-wide police authority: "This could become a direct function of the new elected Greater London Authority," Mr Dobson said.

The GLA would help to set up a development agency for London which would formulate an overall economic strategy. The authority would also lay down transport guidelines. Mr Dobson said: "Overall control of London Transport should be returned to the elected representatives of London."

The new authority would appoint a board which would control the operation of the bus and Tube networks and would seek to make better use of the Thames for transport.

Labour's plans for the GLA might be put to a referendum of Londoners, but the party still has to decide how this would be done.

Jail terms plan 'will lead to violence'

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

PRISON staff will be at a greater risk of violent attack and even death under the Government's tough new sentencing proposals, Judge Stephen Tumim said yesterday.

The former Chief Inspector of Prisons warned of the far-reaching effects Michael Howard's plans would have on prison life and in particular on the 29,000 prison officers in 135 jails in England and Wales. Judge Tumim condemned the proposal to end automatic remission for the 53,000 prisoners and replace it with a system of rewards based on continuous assessment throughout an offender's time in jail.

"If you are not going to get parole or remission than you might as well beat up or murder a prison officer," he told a reception at King's College in central London.

He said it was a "very dangerous doctrine" to give responsibility for early release and release on licence to prison officers. He said that under the Home Secretary's "deplorable" proposals remission would be based on continual assessment by the prison officers.

He said: "This is going to cause bad relations and bring allegations of racism and favouritism, of support by officers of snoops by one prisoner against another. Nothing could be worse for prison discipline than that."

Under Mr Howard's proposals people convicted of a second sexual or violent offence would receive an automatic life sentence: offenders convicted of dealing in Class A drugs such as heroin and cocaine on two or more occasions would get a minimum seven years and burglars with three or more convictions a minimum three years in jail.

☐ Proposals to put probation officers on performance-related pay linked to the behaviour of the offenders they supervise were condemned as unworkable yesterday. Chief probation officers in England and Wales said that Home Office moves to introduce an element of "pay by results" for their staff would seriously damage supervision of an estimated 110,000 offenders.

Blunkett hopes to widen teaching net

By John O'Leary
EDUCATION EDITOR

LABOUR plans to bring new ideas into the classroom by persuading people from business, industry and the media to become teachers will be unveiled today by David Blunkett, the Shadow Education and Employment Secretary.

Mr Blunkett will outline a scheme to keep schools in touch with the world of work when he addresses the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers in Glasgow. The proposals will form part of a ten-point deal with the teaching profession. Experienced professionals from other fields could enter teaching while taking part-time training courses. Those already in schools would be offered sabbaticals in business or industry to refresh their skills.

Mr Blunkett will tell the conference that he is determined to forge stronger links between teaching and the world of work. He is particularly keen to attract more people with experience of financial services, industry, commerce and the media.

The model for Labour's scheme will be existing Open University courses, which provide the opportunity for a career switch in one year. Mr Blunkett is aiming particularly at the over-40s, some of whom may have taken early retirement after successful careers. They would be offered an accelerated route into teaching in recognition of their wider skills.

Similar initiatives introduced by Conservative ministers have encountered opposition from teachers' unions determined to maintain an all-graduate profession. But Mr Blunkett's offer, which includes limits on class sizes in infants schools and the introduction of an "advanced teacher" grade may smooth the way for his plans.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, said yesterday that a new era of union co-operation with government could follow the election. A social partnership between trade unions and politicians could mean lower wage demands in return for united action against unemployment and poor working conditions, he said.

The union's annual conference approved Mr de Gruchy's plan for a wide debate within the union on how far co-operation could be taken with a "socially enlightened government". He said there would still probably have to be a ballot of all members before the union approached a political party to discuss the details of a partnership.

Ministers press on with M25 widening

By Jonathan Prynn
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is going ahead with plans to broaden a two-mile section of the M25 to 12 lanes, creating one of the widest roads in the world outside of America. The £94 million scheme is aimed at easing chronic congestion along the busiest stretch of the 117-mile London orbital, which is Europe's busiest road.

Under the plans unveiled yesterday, the section between junction 14 and junction 15, the M4 exit, will be widened from four to six lanes in each direction. Also, the section between junction 12, the M3 exit, and junction 14, the Heathrow exit, will be widened from four to five lanes..

The proposals were first unveiled last April when Brian Mawhinney, the then Transport Secretary, announced that plans to build a 14-lane superhighway were to be downgraded.

Anti-roads groups had hoped that the alternative 12-lane plan would be dropped by Sir George Young, Mr Mawhinney's successor, who is considered less sympathetic to large-scale road-building. Yesterday, however, the Highways Agency launched formal consultation on the scheme.

The Government believes the widening, combined with traffic management schemes such as variable speed limits, will be sufficient to deal with predicted traffic growth for the next 15 years.

The proposals were described as good value for money by John Watts, Transport Minister. "They are an important step forward in the relief of congestion for this very busy motorway," he said. "With the introduction of variable speed limits last year, this will accommodate traffic growth well into the next century."

Lynn Sloman, assistant director of the environmental group Transport 2000, said: "These proposals are utterly futile. Widening a busy stretch of motorway is no way to reduce congestion."

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Americans rescue 150 from Liberia under heavy fire

FROM BUDU KAISA IN MONROVIA AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

UNDER heavy artillery fire, more than 150 foreigners were evacuated from Liberia yesterday as factional fighting, in which up to 300 people have died, racked the city for the fifth successive day.

Gunfire was also heard in the direction of the Barclay Training Centre military barracks in Monrovia as two US helicopter gunships intermittently ducked behind the American Embassy compound to whisk civilians out of range of the armour in front of the building.

Liberian civilians watched the gunships sweep out over the Atlantic in a chilly reminder of the time American gunboats stood offshore and evacuated foreigners in 1990 when Charles Taylor, the rebel leader, first launched his attempt to seize power. The American influence is still felt in Liberia, where the flag and legal system are the same as those of the United States.

The battle lines have been drawn between Roosevelt Johnson and his Krahn tribe who make up three of the country's seven warring factions. The other side is a loose alliance led by Mr Taylor, a descendant of freed American slaves. Wilton Sankawulo, the head of the six-man Council of State, the collective presidency, has made no comment on the conflict.

The State Department in Washington said yesterday that it would continue evacuating all foreigners from Liberia, despite a peace accord hurriedly brokered by ambassadors from Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. American Embassy sources said they had only three days of food left.

A band of rebel fighters armed with AK47 rifles stormed a carpark near the Mamba Point safe zone, a diplomatic enclave on the southern edge of the capital, and fired into the air to scare off onlookers as they broke through windows to move the cars. The group later moved down the road and took away a United Nations jeep.

"The only thing the rebels understand is to loot and kill," one woman said. Marco Okaja, a businessman, broke down as he explained how he watched helplessly as rebels looted his shop. "The rebels held me at gunpoint and splashed mud on me as they looted my store," he said. "There is no store left untouched in Waterside [the city's commercial centre]." It is hard to identify the sides in this latest ethnic war as the fighters dress in similar civilian clothing.

About 60 American troops were in Monrovia helping with the evacuation and a further 500 were standing by in Sierra Leone and Senegal. The evacuees were being flown 235 miles to Freetown by helicopter before boarding cargo aircraft destined for Dakar, the capital of Senegal, and commercial flights to Europe and beyond.

Although the Pentagon said that no violence in Liberia had been directed at American citizens, two heavily armed Hercules aircraft were standing ready should fighting erupt again in Monrovia. The US European Command, in charge of Operation Assured Response, has sent three HC130s from RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk, capable of refuelling helicopters in mid-air, two MC130 special operations aircraft and two basic transport C130s.

The fighting erupted on Saturday when armed policemen stormed Mr Johnson's house to arrest him for the killing of three opponents in his Krahn faction. His whereabouts are now unknown.

Leading article, page 19

A US helicopter lifts off in Sierra Leone to help in rescuing foreigners from Liberia

Political struggle gives way to war of greed and evil

By MARK HUBAND

AFTER almost seven years of civil war, Liberia's conflict has swung from being a struggle against dictatorship into a nightmarish combination of greed, evil and stupidity.

Roosevelt Johnson, the self-styled general who is wanted for murder and whose refusal to be arrested by the country's fragile ruling council ignited the latest outbreak of violence, has little to distinguish himself from other warlords with their hands on the rusting wheels of power.

A member of the Krahn ethnic group, General Johnson emerged in 1994 as the leader of a tribal faction within one of the five increasingly fragmented armed groups whose war has destroyed the country.

The struggle against the dictatorship of the late President Doe, which was the reason for the war when it started in 1989, has long been forgotten. Now, the conflict is between rival warlords with largely tribal armies.

The charge of murder against General Johnson would be laughable if Liberia were not such a tragedy. Liberians can pin murder charges on most of their self-styled leaders. The country is a murderer's safe haven in which 150,000 people have been slaughtered.

It is telling that General Johnson — short, round and bearing an uncanny resemblance to the Chicago gangsters Liberia's warlords emulate in the belief that they are what leadership "looks like" — did not deny the murder charge. What seemed to upset him was that he was not going to be allowed to get away with it.

Key among his accusers was Charles Taylor, the former civil servant who launched the liberation struggle-turned-horror-story. General Johnson hates Mr Taylor, who is likely to become Liberia's next President, if only because he looks less sinister than his rival warlords.

As hatred, personal enmity, covetousness and deceit are the main elements in the Liberian political debate, it is not surprising that General Johnson decided to plunge the war-racked capital Monrovia into chaos, seize hostages and barricade himself behind his rocket-propelled grenades as a way of showing his feelings. But just as easily as he exploded, he has now calmed down and offered to hand himself over to the "authorities".

Yesterday's evacuation of Americans was a fine military exercise perfectly manicured for American domestic consumption. But Roosevelt Johnson had his 15 minutes of fame. Now Liberia will sink back into obscurity.

Kim: said to do right things in wrong way

Seoul set to oust its ruling party

FROM CATHERINE LEE IN SEOUL

THE ruling New Korea Party of President Kim Young Sam is expected to lose its majority in the National Assembly in today's election despite the unifying boost of lurid threats from North Korea.

The political forecast is that the break-up and realignment of political parties will continue well into next year, when the presidential election is planned for December.

Many political analysts attribute President Kim's falling popularity to a growing discontent with his ruling style. Most of the ruling party candidates, believing their membership is no longer an asset, are trying to distance themselves from their party affiliation.

"The question is not 'if', but 'by what margin' the ruling party will lose. If it loses more than 30 seats, political realignments will be unavoidable," Suh Sang Mok, a ruling party candidate, says.

Taking office in 1993, President Kim enacted laws designed to root out government corruption. He even introduced one to punish people, including former Presidents Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, for wrongdoings dating back to 1980.

But he is often criticised for doing the right things in the wrong way, giving his countrymen an impression that he is politically motivated. He put two former presidents in jail on corruption charges, but refuses to disclose funds he spent in the 1992 presidential election campaign. An opposition leader has confessed he had received a substantial amount of money from Mr Roh.

Last month, one of President Kim's aides was arrested and indicted for allegedly taking bribes from businessmen. The scandal further eroded Mr Kim's popularity.

Korean law forbids pollsters to disclose survey results during election campaigns. Judging from privately conducted polls, however, the ruling NKP is expected to win about 37 per cent of the 299 National Assembly seats. It now holds 147, or 49 per cent. The National Coalition for New Politics, led by Kim Dae Jung, is expected to emerge with a third of the seats.

Peking grooms friends for 1997

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

LU PING, China's senior official in charge of Hong Kong, arrives in the colony today and in Mao Tse-tung's words will make plain "who are our friends and who are our enemies".

Mr Lu, director of the Hong Kong and China Affairs Office, is also Secretary-General of the Preparatory Committee, whose 150 local and mainland members, handpicked by Peking, will operate before and after the 1997 handover. The committee will meet Hong Kong groups to discuss their ideas on the formation of the next Government. Tomorrow Mr Lu will give a speech on the colony's future.

In China's continuing policy of driving a wedge between Chris Patten, the Governor, and his civil servants, Zhou Nan, China's most senior diplomat in Hong Kong, announced yesterday that he would host a dinner for Mr Lu and for Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary and Mr Patten's deputy, on April 18 while the Governor is in London for talks with John Major. Ms Chan welcomed Mr Zhou's invitation and said she hoped for wide-ranging discussions.

As part of Peking's ban on contacts with the Governor, Mr Lu has refused to meet Mr Patten in Hong Kong, but he has seen Ms Chan in Peking. Ms Chan is regarded by some as a candidate to become the first chief executive picked by Peking.

During recent weeks Peking has dragged its relations with Britain to new depths by announcing it would install its own legislative council and chief executive months before the takeover.

The British Government has threatened to sue the Chinese government over any dissolution of Hong Kong institutions. Yesterday the Foreign Office said that Peking failed to observe the Joint Declaration "other avenues would have to be explored".

Mr Lu and other officials have also suggested that senior civil servants must indicate their loyalty to the Chinese-appointed council if they hope to continue in office after the takeover.

☐ **Shanghai:** Shanghai authorities have ordered at least two groups of expatriate Christians to stop conducting services, in line with new regulations on religious affairs, sources said. *(AFP)*

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Mitsubishi faces $150m bill over sex harassment

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

WOMEN at a Japanese car factory near Chicago had their bottoms and breasts pinched, were called names and were subjected to the widest-ranging instances of sexual harassment, according to US equal opportunities investigators. It has resulted in America's biggest sexual harassment case.

Hundreds of female workers at the Mitsubishi car plant in Normal, Illinois, could be awarded $300,000 (£197,000) each if the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission succeeds with its federal suit against Mitsubishi. The commission interviewed employees over 15 months, cited "groping, grabbing and touching" of female workers.

Those who complained about the alleged abuse were ostracised, laughed at, or forced to resign, the commission claimed. It cited the case of a man placing an air gun between a woman's legs and pulling the trigger. The factory has 4,000 employees, of whom 800 are women.

Paul Igasaki, the commission's vice-chairman, said that some women were called "sluts, whores and bitches and other names which I cannot repeat". Obscene graffiti decorated the men's lavatory, including a list of female staff who allegedly had slept with male co-workers. One man found the name of his wife, who also works at the factory, and who was accused of being involved in group sex.

The commission believes that Mitsubishi contravened the Civil Right Acts of 1964, and said that damages, according to a 1991 Act, could reach $300,000 for each person affected. Mitsubishi faces a possible bill of $150 million. Mr Igasaki said that he expects "to show that from at least 1990 forward the working environment at Mitsubishi was characterised by continuous physical and verbal abuse against women".

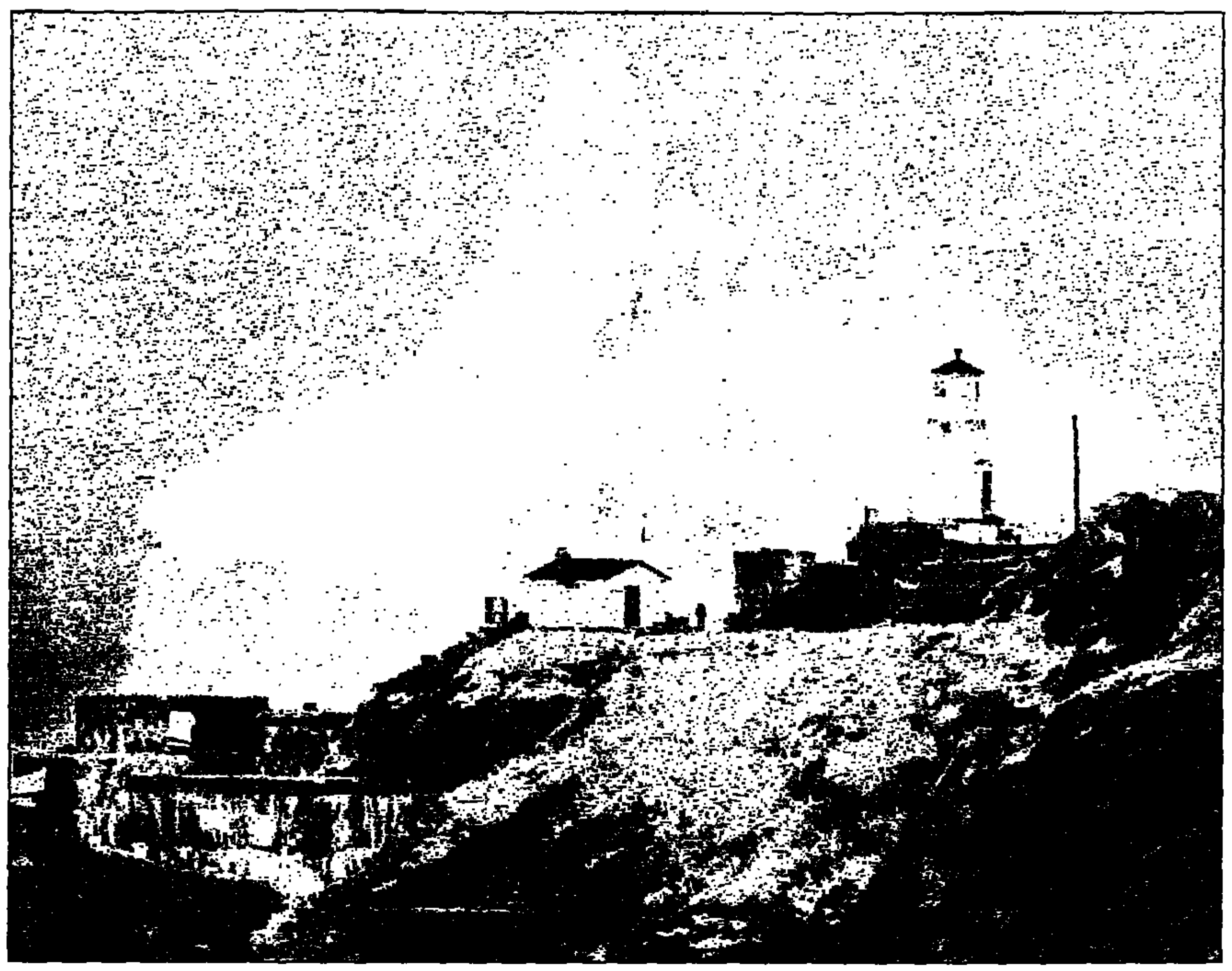
In a separate action, 30 female Mitsubishi employees have accused the company's Japanese managers of "inaction and indifference" to the harassment. Mr Igasaki, himself of Japanese descent, did not add to these allegations but said: "It may be that Japanese management here needs to understand how important it is that management and leadership make sure that this kind of situation does not occur." A union which represents many of the women did little to stop the alleged harassment.

Gary Shultz, for Mitsubishi, said: "Discrimination of any kind will never — and has never — been tolerated at this plant. We have a very comfortable atmosphere for female employees."

Mr Shultz added that Mitsubishi would defend the suit and criticised the commission for going public with details.

Mr Shultz said that the suit was politically motivated. The commission has recently been criticised by Republican members of Congress, some of whom have questioned the need for its existence. It was ridiculed last year for acting against a restaurant chain which employs long-legged waitresses in hot pants.

Mr Igasaki said the Mitsubishi case "should have a significant impact beyond the parties and should send the strongest message that sexual harassment in the workplace, whether in office suites or on the assembly line, will not be tolerated".



One of the first giant icebergs of the year looms over Fort Amherst at the mouth of the Narrows in the harbour of St John's, Newfoundland, yesterday. Such huge mountains of ice drift down from the north every spring

Poachers threaten survival of bears

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

BLACK bears that have thrived in Canada's vast wilderness for millennia are being poached at a rate that threatens their continued existence, conservationists say.

Poachers are killing up to 40,000 black bears a year to supply the Chinese restaurants of Canada, Hong Kong and South Korea with bear-claw soup, considered a great delicacy. Huge sums are also paid for bear gall-bladders for use in oriental medicine.

"If the rate [of killing] keeps going over the next five years, we will lose the species in the wild," Michael O'Sullivan, director of the Humane Society of Canada, said. "We have to do something now."

Bear-claw soup can sell for up to £65 a bowl in Hong Kong, according to British Columbia's Environment Ministry, while bear bile can net more profit than any similar amount of cocaine.

Bank that likes to say stick 'em up

Hanoi: Do Trung Kien may have a lesson for bankers the world over — the AK47 rifle is more effective than a stern fax when it comes to collecting stubborn unpaid debts.

Mr Kien, deputy manager of a Vietnamese bank in Ho Chi Minh City, destroyed the image of bankers as cautious men in dark suits when he orchestrated a commando raid on a company that owed six billion dong (£359,000).

Sixteen employees armed with the Czech-made high-velocity rifles, which belonged to bank security guards, swooped on the offices of Hai Yen Co in Ho Chi Minh City, snipping telephone lines and cordoning off the area, the *Tuoi Tre* newspaper reported.

The bankers loaded three lorries with equipment pledged as collateral for the original three billion dong (£178,000) loan to the garment company — then the police arrived and arrested them.

"This is a fantasy for bankers," said an executive from a top Western bank in Hanoi. "We dream of doing things like this but bankers have to act within the law." *(AFP)*

Clinton gives voice to American grief

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

RON BROWN, the Commerce Secretary whose plane crashed in Croatia last week, was being buried in Arlington National Cemetery yesterday after President Clinton delivered a televised eulogy.

Since taking office in 1993, Mr Clinton has buried his mother, his father-in-law and Vincent Foster, his old Arkansas friend and White House aide. He has delivered moving tributes at funerals or memorial services for Richard Nixon, Les Aspin, the former Defence Secretary, Jacqueline Kennedy, the victims of the Oklahoma City bombing, and Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister.

"Clinton seems to excel at such tasks," Richard Cohen, a *Washington Post* columnist, wrote this week. "Once so young, once so seemingly callow, he has somehow emerged of late as a more solid, custodial figure — maybe not, you might argue, a president for all times, but certainly, you would have to concede, a president for the bad ones."

Mary McGrory, another *Post* columnist, concurred. In the wake of last week's tragedy, in which 32 other Americans also died, Mr Clinton adopted his "favourite role, that of comforter of the afflicted . . . he offered a shoulder for the country to cry on," she wrote.

An NBC television presenter noted that "when the nation grieves he is there, making the right gesture, saying just the right thing".

Some Republicans privately contend the silver-tongued President is seeking to exploit the tragedy for political advantage, in this election year, but even the most partisan would admit Bob Dole, the Republicans' rhetorically challenged presidential nominee, would be severely tested.

On the campaign trail, he seeks to make an asset of being inarticulate and claims to be a "doer not a talker", implying Mr Clinton offers only empty words and promises. But public speaking is an essential part of the modern presidency, and Americans expect their President to express the nation's feelings at times of great emotion.

Wives as weapons, page 17

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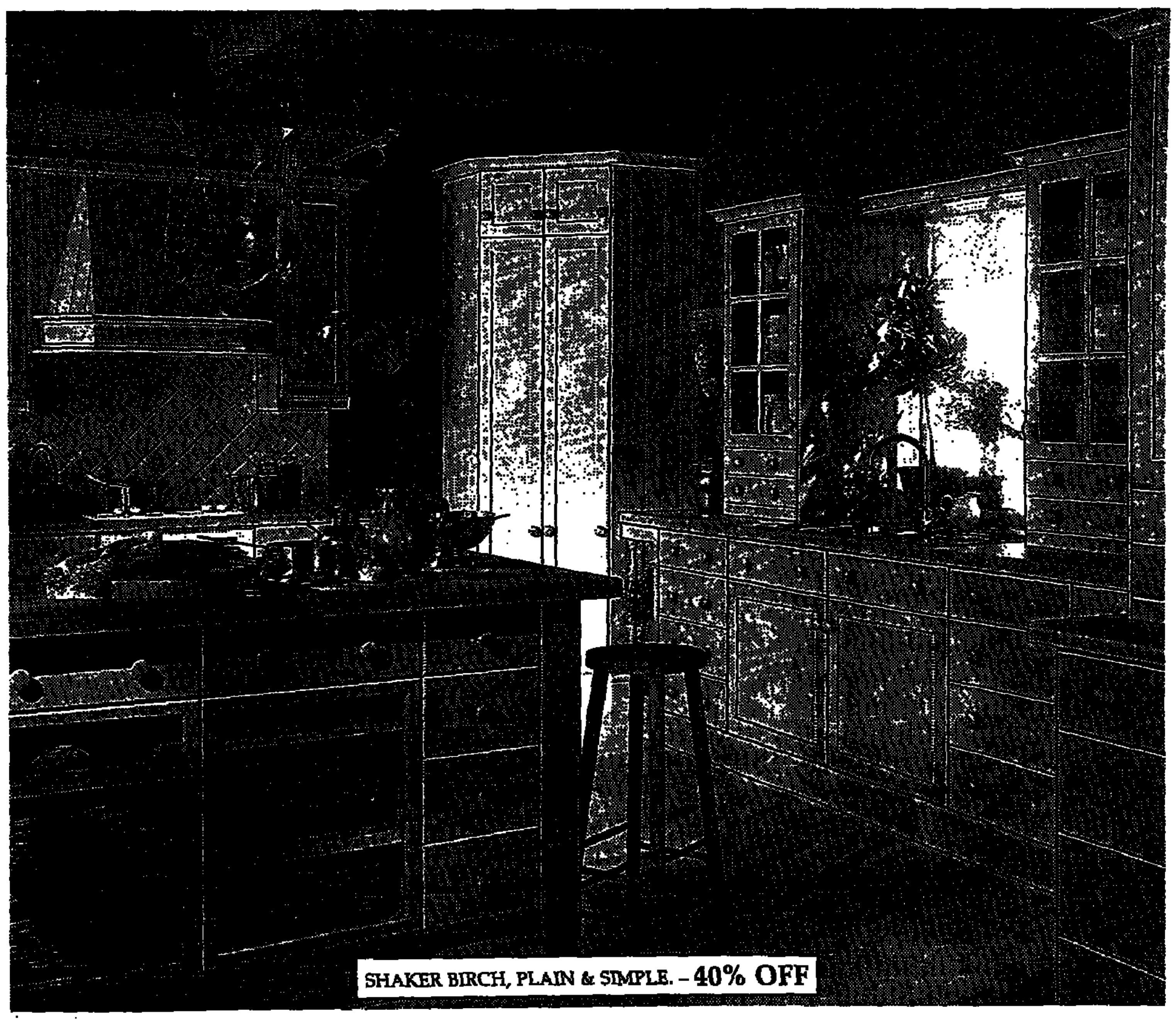

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TI 22

Risk from ageing and unsafe installations worsens ten years after Chernobyl catastrophe

Fallout of past neglect puts millions in peril

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A DECADE after the Chernobyl nuclear accident contaminated vast reaches of Europe with radioactive fallout, millions of inhabitants of the former Soviet Union and its neighbours face the threat of another nuclear disaster.

From the nuclear submarine pens of Russia's Arctic and Pacific fleets, where dozens of vessels lie rotting, to the heavily populated regions of Russia, Ukraine and the Baltic where several dangerous reactors are in operation, the Chernobyl legacy lives on.

The collapse of communism may have ushered in East-West co-operation on nuclear safety and helped in the emergence of a strong environmentalist movement in Russia, but post-Soviet disorder has also caused a brain drain of leading atomic scientists, created an illicit market for stolen nuclear substances and starved the nuclear industry of funds.

The most pressing concern facing the international community is how to ensure the safety of reactors at several sites dotted across the former Soviet Union, where ageing and unsafe plants are still operating. The most controversial are the RBMK graphite-moderated reactors of the same design as Chernobyl's Unit 4 which exploded ten years ago. At present, 11 reactors are in service in Russia at the Kursk, Leningrad and Smolensk plants, two at Chernobyl in Ukraine and two at Ignalina in Lithuania.

While some efforts have been made over the past few years to improve safety, the design of the RBMK reactors is widely recognised as inherently unsafe and prone to fire.

LEGACY OF DISASTER

Professor Adolf Birkhofer, who presided over an international conference on the reactors this week in Vienna, gave a warning that another accident was possible and recommended that two reactors in Ukraine and Lithuania should be shut down permanently.

Environmentalists are also concerned about the unsafe plant in Russia's northern Kola Peninsula and another at Metsamor in Armenia, which was closed down after the 1986 earthquake but recently reactivated. As well as the threat posed by civilian reactors there is the danger from Russia's 250-strong nuclear submarine fleet. Over the past five years more than half of the vessels were taken out of service, but the naval authorities do not have the resources to decomission them and dispose of spent nuclear fuel.

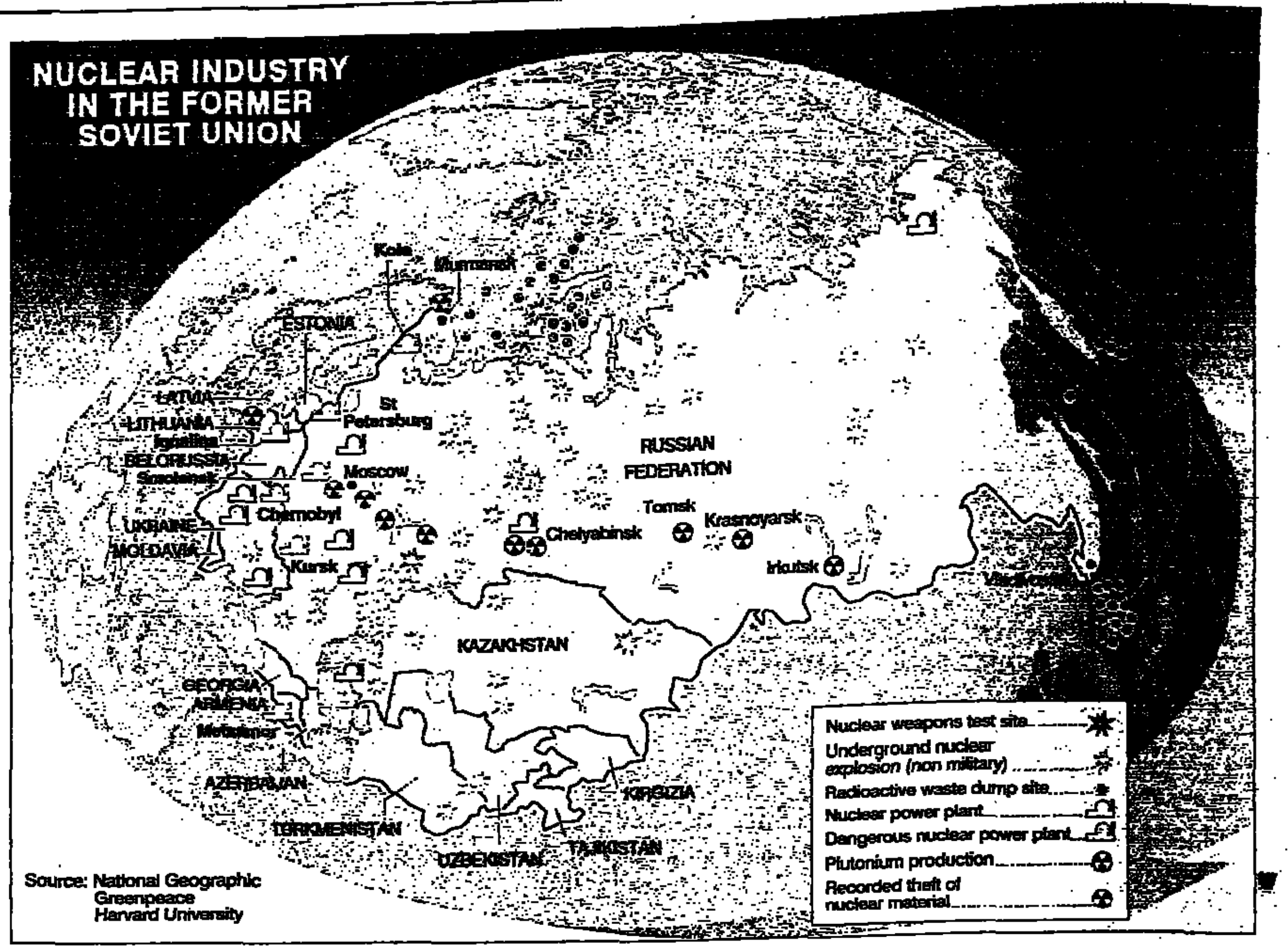
Joshua Handler, a Greenpeace expert on Russia's submarines, said that the boats, based near Murmansk in the Arctic and Vladivostok, in the Far East, represented a significant environmental threat to local populations and neighbouring states. "The Soviet authorities never gave any thought to how to decommission their submarines, with the result that the fleet is in a terrible state and some submarines have been lying there for years," Mr Handler said.

In August 1985, the reactor on board a Soviet submarine exploded in the Far East, emitting about one tenth of the radioactivity released by the Chernobyl disaster eight months later. The weakening of the state's control over the vast nuclear complex in the former Soviet Union has also led to the theft of nuclear substances, which have been offered for sale. Many in the West regard this as possibly the most threatening security issue of our age.

Although in most cases the substances proved to be worthless radioactive waste, there is suspicion that Russia's mafia is becoming involved and that serious buyers are emerging, possibly among pariah states seeking to build nuclear weapons.

According to *Avoiding Nuclear Anarchy*, a recently released report by Harvard University, there have been six separate incidents recently when highly enriched uranium or plutonium, the essential components for a nuclear bomb, were stolen in Russia.

Western funding and expertise have been used in fighting the environmental and security problems of Russia's nuclear complex, which will be the central issue this month when leaders of the G7 group of leading industrial nations gather in Moscow. Despite the international efforts, there are fears that rising nationalism in Russia and growing East-West tensions may undermine the co-operation. The Kremlin shows little remorse for the devastation caused by decades of nuclear negligence in the Soviet Union which turned some of the country's pristine and most ecologically fragile region into blighted nuclear test sites or dumping grounds for nuclear waste. In fact, the Ministry of Atomic Energy is proud of its nuclear know-how and is pressing for the construction of a new generation of reactors for the next century. Time and again Moscow has displayed renewed suspicion and secrecy when dealing with its nuclear problems, particularly those relating to the military. Viktor Mikhailov, the Nuclear Energy Minister, has emerged as one of the most hawkish figures in the Kremlin. Mr Mikhailov routinely blames "Western disinformation" for disclosures about inadequate safety and security lapses at his nuclear installations. Even more disturbing is President Yeltsin's role. Last July he signed a decree stripping a newly formed civilian watchdog of its power to oversee the nuclear safety of military facilities. On two occasions since then American researchers invited to Russia by Moscow to carry out tests for radioactive contamination have been arrested by local security officials for spying.



Source: National Geographic Greenpeace Harvard University

Nuclear plant reactivated in earthquake zone

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN METSAMOR, ARMENIA

ARMENIA

THE choice was a terrifying one: to leave Armenia virtually without power or to reactivate a nuclear power station built in an earthquake zone.

Armenia chose the second option and in October recommissioned one of two reactors at the Metsamor power station. It had been shut down after the huge earthquake of December 1988.

Now two plumes of smoke coil from cooling towers within sight of the Armenian holy mountain, Mount Ararat, and only 20 miles west of the capital, Yerevan. The Armenians have spent three years and $50 million (£33 million) on refitting the reactor and are now host to a long line of delegations from nuclear regulatory authorities.

"Everyone leaves satisfied," Suren Azatyan, the station director, said.

They have overhauled all the equipment and installed an extra reserve steam generator. Each of the four generators is buttressed against earthquakes by eight Japanese-built stabilisers.

Most of the financing and technical help came from Russia, which trained all the station operators and supplies the reactor with nuclear fuel once a year by air.

The Metsamor reactor, built in 1979, is one of 27 pressurised light-water VVER-440 type units still operating in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Although these reactors are without some of the design faults of the graphite Chernobyl-type RBMK stations, they are just as old and share one common feature: the lack of a containment dome around the reactor. A dome of this type prevented a big radiation leak during the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

Mr Azatyan said that the lack of a dome had only made them work harder on other safety features to stop a radiation leak in the first place.

Slavik Danielyan, the station's deputy director, said it was a matter of staff training. "Your operators can eat chocolate as they work, ours have to know more," he said. In the station control room the operators were studying computers and dials made in the 1970s.

The reactors' critics, however, say the refitting amounts to nothing more than patching up a fundamentally flawed structure.

"I am scared by this nuclear power plant," said Victoria Ter-Nikogosyan, an environmental adviser for the United Nations Development Programme in Armenia. "They say 'Don't worry, we are doing our best'," she said.

Over 80 tonnes of nuclear fuel is still stored in water basins on the station site. Negotiations have only just started with the French firm Framatom to build new silos to store waste.

Armenians seem reconciled to the return to service of the reactor, which supplies about two fifths of the country's electricity.

In the winters of 1993 and 1994, because of the total energy blockade by Azerbaijan and Turkey, city dwellers were limited to two hours' electricity a day.

At one point, when only the country's presidential palace had reliable electricity supplies, the joke went round that a newsreader on the evening television news began his broadcast: "Good evening, Mr President".

A Ukrainian child, Olga Derzhutskaya, six, is tested after an operation for thyroid cancer

Children the main victims of Ukrainian reactor disaster

FROM REUTER IN VIENNA

CHILDREN were among the main victims of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear blast, experts at an international conference said yesterday.

In Belorussia in particular, where 70 per cent of the radiation that leaked from the destroyed nuclear reactor was deposited, more than 400 cases of thyroid cancer among children have been recorded. Scores more were registered in Ukraine where the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is sited.

"There can be no doubt that the increase in childhood thyroid cancer is related to the fallout from Chernobyl," Professor Dillwyn Williams, of Cambridge University, said. He was speaking on the second day of a conference on Chernobyl attended by 700 delegates, politicians and nuclear experts.

He added, however, that the Chernobyl cloud had a silver lining: with increased scientific and medical knowledge, the disease can largely be treated. "With increased monitoring and good treatment, the death rate from thyroid cancer was not expected to rise," another expert said. "If properly treated, childhood thyroid cancer can be cured."

Professor Williams told the conference, co-sponsored by the World Health Conference with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Commission, that in the Gomel region of southern Belorussia,

CANCER RISK

the area most affected by fallout, cases of thyroid cancer reached an average of 92 per million children a year. The rate dropped to 14.6 per million in the rest of Belorussia. In England and Wales the comparable figure is 0.5 cases per million a year. "There is no doubt that the crude rates of thyroid cancer cases correlate with the fallout distribution," the professor added.

Yevhen Marchuk, the Ukrainian Prime Minister, repeated a pledge by Kiev to decommission Chernobyl by the year 2000, but said that Ukraine would be paying for the effects of the accident for years.

Leaders of the Group of Seven leading industrial nations — the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan — meet in Moscow tomorrow week to discuss nuclear safety issues. Financial pledges to pay for the decommissioning of Chernobyl are expected to be on the agenda.

☐ **Kiev:** Rivers throughout Ukraine, which have risen after the melting of record snowfalls, flooded dozens of towns yesterday, forcing the evacuation of about 1,000 people.

Officials are particularly concerned about flooding in the 18-mile zone around the Chernobyl plant, with the threat of contaminated water being carried into drinking supplies. *(AP)*

Settlers return to find peace on poisoned land

FROM LESIA RUDAKEWICH IN TEREMTSI, UKRAINE

THE VICTIMS COME HOME

ANNA and Oleksiy Omelchuk live like other rural Ukrainians. Near their wooden house they grow vegetables and raise chickens. Their village, Teremtsi, is accessible only by a winding, almost impassable muddy road or by the Dnipro river about 500 yards away. When Mr Omelchuk, 67, comes back from fishing, Mrs Omelchuk, 65, is already at the stove.

But the Omelchuks are not a typical retired couple. They live in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, an area 18 miles in radius from which people are supposed to be excluded because of radiation from the 1986 Chernobyl accident. Like many older homeowners, they refused to be resettled by the then Soviet Government, which moved everyone out, and returned to their village in 1988.

Many had drifted back as early as 1987. In 1989, thousands were returning but the state persisted in driving them out. But since the break-up of the Soviet Union, the Ukrainian Government has relented. Those who moved into the area gave rise to the term "self-settler".

Today, about 650 self-settlers are officially registered in the zone. Many announce their presence with a sign at their door — "The owner lives here". Of about 100 official residents in Teremtsi, about 60 have returned. Like Oleksiy, most are elderly and stay in the zone for one reason: it is better to be home than anywhere else.

"I wasn't born here but I like this place — the river and forests," says Oleksiy. "I bought this house and worked on it, all my investment and effort, I couldn't just abandon it. My soul is here."

Mr Omelchuk says he checked radiation levels in the house secretly as early as May 1987. "In the first year people here crept back by boat," he said. "The militia were watching and it was illegal to return."

But as he did not find elevated levels of radiation, he came back the next year with his wife.

According to official radiation maps, Teremtsi is not among the zone's worst affected towns. After the accident, winds carrying radioactive fallout hit northern and western regions. Eastern and southern parts, including the Teremtsi area, were less affected. Today towns in the north are still unpopulated and highly restricted.

> ‘I like this place, the river and forests ... I couldn't just abandon it. My soul is here’

"Our area is cleaner than some places in and around Kiev," insists Anna. "We were lucky the way the wind blew."

Patches of radiation exist but self-settlers largely disregarded the dangers. Even now, despite regular checks, they gamble on growing their own food.

"You just can't survive on a government pension," said Oleksiy, who worked in a Kiev factory for 25 years and receives about £16 a month. "It is easier to live here than in the city."

Anna concedes: "The conditions aren't like the city, but we love it. We plant everything — peppers, tomatoes, potatoes and check it — in Kiev, you don't know where food comes from."

But settlers are not left entirely to their own devices. Chernobyl Zone authorities check well water and food for radiation levels, bring medical help, police the area and, most importantly, drive in goods that cannot be made at home. Twice a week the "auto store" — a lorry delivery — comes by with bread, flour, sugar and other basic goods for villagers to buy.

"We serve as a control over the self-settlers," says Andriy Sukhoruchkin of the Pripyat Radiation Monitoring Station. "In 1986 there were problems — they were getting radiation doses three times higher than normal from food, air and water."

But he adds: "So far their radiation doses aren't high enough to force them to leave. Besides, these people are mostly old, if they were young there would be a more convincing argument to move them out."

In most ways, life in Teremtsi has not changed since Soviet times. A freshly cut woodpile, clothes hanging on a line and piles of scythed hay pay tribute to the daily work. Recreation consists of sitting on the steps for a chat with neighbours.

As Oleksiy settles down to a meal of mushroom blini and fried fish, he lifts the traditional shot of home-distilled vodka. However, the toast he proposes is telling: "Against the radionuclides."

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Brussels calls on Britain to join new ERM group

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN will be expected to play along with a system for linking all European Union currencies to the future euro, the European Commission made clear yesterday as ministers prepared for a meeting to draft plans for a new exchange-rate mechanism.

"Europe is like a rugby team," Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the Commissioner for Monetary Affairs, said. "There are 15 members and everyone has to work together in the same direction. We don't want one or two sitting by and watching." M de Silguy was responding to questions over whether Britain could be forced to join a new exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) which is being devised to ensure stability once the single currency is launched.

Plans for the new mechanism, backed by almost all other member states but rejected by the British Government, will be drafted by finance ministers at a meeting in Verona which starts tomorrow night. M de Silguy refused to be drawn on whether membership of a new-look ERM could be made compulsory and enforced with sanctions. The Commission is adamant that no schemes for forcing membership by reluctant states are being discussed.

Sir Leon Brittan, the Trade Commissioner, noted that Britain could block any such move with its veto. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is certain to find himself alone at Verona when he voices Britain's hostility to re-entering a monetary machine which it regards as doomed. Among the other 14 members, only Finland and Sweden have voiced qualms about the scheme.

France, Germany and Belgium have been leading the campaign to ensure that the euro is secured against damage from countries seen to be seeking unfair advantage through letting their currencies devalue against the core European unit. Italy and Spain, as well as Britain to a lesser extent, are deemed guilty of the offence.

President Chirac of France said last month that Germany agreed with him on the need for a "binding exchange-rate system linking the euro and the currencies that remain temporarily outside the single currency". M Chirac talked of possible "sanctions" and continental officials have aired various ideas, including fines or the payment of EU transfers in national currencies rather than the euro.

M de Silguy, who is leading a campaign to keep monetary union on the rails, said there was agreement among EU states on the need for a new ERM. Ministers at Verona would work to find a way of attaining stability among the "ins" and "pre-ins", as he prefers to call the majority of states which are likely to be excluded or to opt out of monetary union. Once the decision was taken to create a new ERM, the rest of the job would be technical, he said.

In a letter to the Italian Government, the host of this weekend's Verona meeting, Mr Clarke said that the turmoil of 1992, when Britain was forced out, and of 1993, when the ERM was watered down, showed that market forces would always play havoc with schemes for fixed links among currencies.

However, M de Silguy said that Europe needed "solidarity" in the face of aggression from the currency markets.

Protesters condemn Chinese leader

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

HUMAN rights demonstrators blocked the Champs-Elysées in Paris yesterday as part of their protests against the four-day state visit to France by Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister.

As Mr Li prepared to sign five contracts worth a total of 10 billion francs (£1.3 billion) with his French counterpart, Alain Juppé, members of Amnesty International briefly stopped traffic.

About 150 members suspended a banner across the avenue which read: "Who will talk about human rights with Mr Li?" The protest was swiftly halted by police who arrested them all before releasing them on bail.

Later, several human rights groups held another demonstration at the Trocadero, in central Paris.

The action came amid mounting controversy over the Chinese Premier's visit. Opposition Socialist Party figures say the Gaullist-led Government is so keen for Mr Li to buy French products that it has ignored human rights abuses in Tibet and China.

Last night, Mr Li was due to agree to purchase 30 Airbus A-320 planes and three A-340s, for a total of $1.7 billion (£1.1 billion).

Human rights demonstrators greet Li Peng on his arrival in Paris yesterday

WORLD SUMMARY

Hamas 'to wage war on Arafat'

Jerusalem: Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, said yesterday that Hamas Islamic extremists were planning war against his self-rule government and said the commanders were based in Jordan (Ross Dunn writes).

Jordan has always denied suggestions that Hamas military leaders responsible for attacks against Israelis operate inside the country.

"This is a declaration of war," Mr Arafat told members of his legislative council as he read from a document he claimed had been written by Hamas.

Andreotti trial must start again

Rome: The trial of Giulio Andreotti, the former Italian Prime Minister, on charges of being the Mafia's top protector in Rome was stopped in Palermo because one of the judges needs eye surgery (Richard Owen writes). The trial will start again in mid-May. Signor Andreotti goes on trial today in Perugia on a separate charge of involvement in the murder of an anti-Mafia journalist in 1979.

China shuts third of rail stations

Peking: China will close almost one third of its passenger railway stations to boost efficiency on the creaking national network, the Xinhua news agency said yesterday. The closure of 1,566 passenger stations, which average only 20 passengers a day, is part of a package intended to bring the state-owned system into the market economy. *(Reuter)*

Quick hair cut saves the day

Sydney: An emergency hair cut is being credited with saving the life of an Australian woman whose long blonde hair jammed in her climbing harness while abseiling down a cliff outside Sydney. Armed with a pair of scissors, a police officer abseiled down and snipped her free. *(Reuter)*

Sarajevo mourns its fallen lovers

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

THE bodies of the slain Sarajevo lovers shot as they tried to flee their besieged city in May 1993 were laid to rest yesterday in the Lion's Cemetery in the heart of the newly reunified capital.

Admira Ismic, a Muslim, and Bosko Brkic, a Serb — have come to be known as Sarajevo's "Romeo and Juliet". They were exhumed last week from their untended graves in a Serb military cemetery.

About 50 mourners, some following Orthodox Serbian customs and others adhering to Muslim traditions, stood in silence around the single grave with its joint headstone as the wooden coffins were placed in ground where so many other victims are buried.

"I was afraid throughout the war I would be killed before I could finish this," said Admira's father, Zijah Ismic, as he shoveled the first mound of earth over the coffins of his daughter and her lover.

The other mourners followed suit, shovelling earth and tossing flowers into the grave. Two floral wreaths then were placed on a mound of earth at the site, a purple satin cloth with the words "To the dear children" placed between them. Admira and Bosko, both 25, were trying to escape the ethnic hatred that had torn their country apart to pursue a new life abroad when they were killed on Vrbanja Bridge.

Their bodies lay in a frozen embrace for eight days while Muslims and Serbs argued over who had killed them and who would risk retrieving the bodies.

When yesterday's ceremony ended, Nera Ismic, Admira's mother, kissed the grave stone as the procession of mourners left in silence.

"These should be the last war victims to be buried here," said Ivan Maric, one of the gravediggers. "It must never happen again."

Serbs reject invitation

Brussels: Bosnian Serb leaders were reported last night to have rejected a last-minute invitation to attend this weekend's Brussels gathering of international donors (Charles Bremner writes).

The meeting will be asked to pledge another $1.2 billion (£787 million) of aid for the reconstruction of Bosnia. Carl Bildt, the representative managing the civilian side of the Dayton peace accord, asked Bosnian Serb authorities to send representatives after they freed 220 prisoners of war.

Prince throws hat in ring

Rome: Prince Rainier of Monaco yesterday emerged as an unlikely ally of one of the world's oldest circuses, which is threatened with bankruptcy because of pressure from animal rights activists (Richard Owen writes).

The head of the 182-year-old circus, Nando Orfei, has gone on hunger strike in an attempt to force the Italian Government to make up "disastrous losses" incurred since the circus stopped using animals a week ago.

Prince Rainier revealed a passion for the circus, telling *La Repubblica* that as a boy he wanted to become a clown. He said that without animals a circus was "nothing more than a music hall".

Chechens accused of village bomb attacks

BY THOMAS DE WAAL

THE commander-in-chief of the Russian Air Force yesterday accused Chechen rebels of blowing up their own villages to undermine the peace process in the republic.

General Petr Deinekin, in his first appearance before the press since the mass bombardment of Chechenia in the winter of 1994, disclaimed all responsibilty for bombing raids last week in Chechenia in which many civilians were killed.

He insisted that the bombing raids had "ended completely, with the exception of flights by reconnaissance aircraft". Reading out what he claimed were intercepted messages between the rebels, he said Chechen rebels had dug pits in the villages of Shalazhi and Katyr-Yurt and planted mines there in "an attempt made to compromise our air force." Witnesses who had seen overflying planes were telling "sheer lies".

Fierce fighting has continued unabated in southern Chechenia since President Yeltsin declared a ceasefire and unveiled a peace plan on March 31. In just two of many flashpoints, hundreds of people were fleeing the town of Shali yesterday, in anticipation of a Russian attack.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

GILLIAM THE BARBARIAN

For his wild new movie Twelve Monkeys, which opens here next week, Terry Gilliam had to tame Hollywood stars and moguls before they could tame him. See the **Magazine** on Sunday

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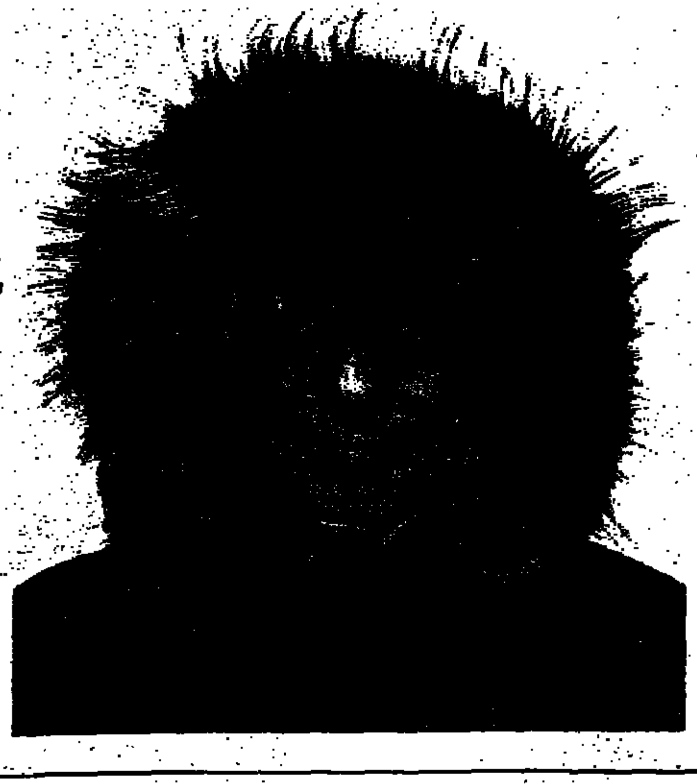

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New findings shed light on glaucoma

Sight for sore eyes

MEDICAL BRIEFING

◆

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

ABOUT ten years ago the doorman at my club was not his usual cheery self when he greeted me one evening. One of his eyes was red, the pupil slightly dilated, and he complained of severe pain and some loss of vision. My role at Moorfields Eye Hospital had been in the venereology department, but even to a non-specialist doctor the diagnosis of acute glaucoma was probable.

Acute glaucoma has obvious signs and symptoms. But the most common type — the chronic simple variety, technically known as primary open-angle glaucoma — is often asymptomatic other than that the patient's vision is progressively restricted.

Glaucoma is second only to cataracts as a cause of loss of sight in the world and it accounts for 15 per cent of blindness in the UK. Two per cent of 40-year-olds and 10 per cent of those in their seventies have a raised pressure of the fluid within the eye, a finding often associated with glaucoma.

Doubt is now cast on the traditional concept that glaucoma can be diagnosed merely by measuring the intraocular pressure. This can be estimated either by tonometry, in which the pressure is measured with a small device applied to the surface of the eye, or by the puff-of-air technique used by optometrists.

The current thinking on the causes, diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma has recently been reviewed by Roger Hitchings, a consultant at Moorfields, in a report published in the *British Journal of Hospital Medicine.*

The early diagnosis of a raised intraocular pressure is still important as it is a very significant risk factor for the development of glaucoma. It is found that the greater the pressure the greater the likelihood of developing glaucoma, although not everyone who has a raised pressure develops it. Primary open-angle glaucoma is now thought of as a degenerative condition of the optic nerve. The raised intraocular pressure may predispose a patient to this degeneration, and so may other factors including a poor blood supply to the optic nerve such as occurs in patients whose blood pressure is either too high or too low. Some patients, for instance, with a raised blood pressure are over-treated so that when they are asleep the blood pressure falls to levels which may interfere with the blood supply to the optic nerve.

A family history of glaucoma and race — black races have more glaucoma than white — are other important risk factors. By studying the optic nerve at the back of the eye with three-dimensional optic disc biomicroscopy during a slit-lamp examination of the eye, specialists can detect early changes in the optic nerve two years before there is any loss of vision. Treatment for chronic simple glaucoma is either medical, laser or surgical, and it is now possible to prescribe effective eye drops for those people in whom beta-blocking drops produce serious side effects.

Drinks and the risk of kidney stones

WHEN blood was found in the urine of one of my contemporaries the immediate thought was that it might be from a cancer of the urinary tract. Fortunately his symptoms proved to be the result of kidney stones. After the diagnosis had been made the next question was whether or not his appreciation of good wine had been a factor in the formation of these stones. Luckily it was possible to reassure him, as a study published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* of 45,289 men between the ages of 40 and 75 had shown that coffee, tea, beer and wine, when taken in reasonable amounts, actually lower the risk of kidney stone formation. Conversely, people who had rejected alcohol, tea and coffee in favour of fruit juices had a higher incidence of kidney stones.

Wine was the most efficient drink at reducing the likelihood of forming urinary-tract stones, cutting the rate by 39 per cent. Beer drinkers were 21 per cent less likely to develop stones and those who took tea and coffee had a 10 per cent reduction. The fruit-juice drinkers were 35 per cent more likely to form stones.

Don't take your pills lying down

PATIENTS tend to look askance at their doctors when they are advised that pills and tablets should be swallowed while they are standing up, and that they shouldn't be taken just before going to bed or even before going to sit in a car or by the television set. Pills should be washed down with liberal quantities of fluid and the patient should then, preferably, wander about until enough time has elapsed for them to have reached the stomach.

Evidence that advice on pill swallowing is medically important has been provided this week by the reports on the side effects which have been recorded when Fosamax, the new and potentially very useful anti-osteoporosis drug, is incorrectly swallowed.

Like many drugs, Fosamax, if not taken properly, can dissolve in the gullet (oesophagus), where it can cause an acute inflammation or even ulceration. The lining of the oesophagus is often unable to withstand many chemicals whereas the stomach lining is tougher. If a pill or tablet is taken when the patient is standing upright it is less likely to be delayed at the bottom of the oesophagus, where it can cause damage.

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INSIDE SECTION 2

From Woody Allen to John Travolta and Al Pacino, the week's new films are reviewed by Geoff Brown
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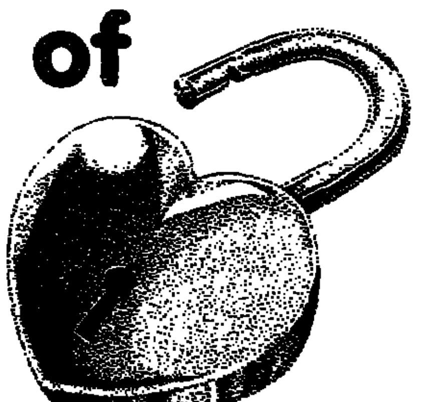

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TED DITCHBURN

Roland Boyes: "I know there are people worse than me, and I want to help because Alzheimer's is terrible . . . But I'm not resentful that it happened to me"

Slide into dementia

The Labour MP Roland Boyes and his wife tell Mary Riddell about his desperate battle to overcome the effects of Alzheimer's disease

He was halfway through his rallying call to the faithful when the terror began. To Roland Boyes, MP for Houghton and Washington, his monthly speech to the constituency party was as familiar and — he occasionally chided himself — as predictable as the shipping forecast.

Now there was only a lengthening hush in the local YMCA and a row of puzzled faces as he stood, feeling perspiration trickle down his back and groping for the words which would not come. "Someone prompted me in the end. He gave me the sentence I wanted, and I was all right."

Over the next weeks, that phrase was to become a mantra. "I'm all right," he would tell his wife, Pat, as she grew increasingly anxious. "I'm all right," he would reassure alarmed colleagues at Westminster.

For how could Roland Boyes — bluff, confident, with a clutch of Labour frontbench jobs to his credit — admit, even to himself, that his life had become a tangled nightmare? His memory was dimming, his energy fading and, on the dark winter nights of January 1995, he would stagger home from the House of Commons, never sure that he would complete the short walk to his Millbank flat.

"I didn't know if I was going to be on the sidewalk or in the river. It was terribly frightening. I had a digital clock in the flat, but I was no longer able to tell the time from it. One day I had to walk half a mile in the pouring rain to get to Big Ben so that I could work out when my train to the constituency was leaving."

> 'I had a digital clock, but I could no longer tell the time'

In the end, a parliamentary colleague, Sam Galbraith, insisted that he see a doctor. A few weeks later, Mr Boyes sat in a hospital bed, calm as he listened to what amounted to a death sentence. "You must know," the consultant said carefully, "that there is such a thing as Alzheimer's disease."

Mr Boyes watched as the tears dampened his relatives' faces, but he did not break down that day. He did not intend to give in, and nor would those who loved him permit him to do so.

Exactly a year has passed, and we are sitting in the office where he, still an MP, works a full day, seeing his constituents and dealing with their problems. He has never before spoken about his illness. The marvel is that he can do so now. But he is funny, lucid and positive about his battle to overcome the disease. "We've just gone on with our normal life. You either slope down into nothingness or you get on with the job. That's what I have done."

In front of him is last year's pocket diary. "Look, I wanted to show you this. Thursday, February 16. I'd been at an animal welfare do in the evening, and afterwards I sat staring at the page. I couldn't work out how to get on to the next day's entry or how to get home. That was the most frightening moment.

"To you and me now, it's easy, but I was suicidal. No, I don't want to use that word, but I was so scared. Oh, God."

And, though he shudders still at the terrible strain of pretending normality while his mental faculties eroded away, he was perhaps shielded from the worst.

To Pat, his wife of 34 years, the transformation was devastating. "I was used to this man who was so bright, who could speak to thousands at political rallies. And suddenly I had this child-man who just wanted to nurse the cat and sleep. He even looked different. His brow would be furrowed and his mouth down at the corners. I called it his Alzheimer's face."

But, at the time, she could only watch in puzzlement and frustration the dozing figure in the armchair at their home in Peterlee and think back to the college days when they first fell in love. "He just stood out of the crowd from the beginning. He dropped his aitches, and he was a rough diamond, but so bright and dominant and charismatic."

A former maths teacher with a string of university degrees, Mr Boyes, now 59, rose through local government to be the MEP for Durham. Elected to Westminster in 1983, he moved swiftly to the Labour front bench — first with the environment team, then at defence. Had Neil Kinnock won the general election, ministerial office seemed likely.

All of that flashed through Pat Boyes's mind in the moment she was told what was wrong with him. "It was such a grey area. They said: 'Your husband has Alzheimer's, and there is no cure,' and I felt as if I was living in the Middle Ages. I thought, damn it, there must be something to help, and I'll find out what it is."

While she stepped up his intake of vitamins, magnesium and calcium, Roland was enrolled on the first clinically-controlled British trial of a new American drug, named E2020. He cannot know, until the findings are released next year, whether it is a useful treatment, but — whatever the cause — he felt less ill.

At home, Pat, a retired infant school teacher, taught him to tell the time again with a child's toy clock. In hospital, outpatient staff encouraged him to perform simple tasks. "They got me to draw a cube and write my address on an envelope. They'd show me a baby's rattle and ask me to tell them what it was for.

"For a while I couldn't talk at all. It was as if I was living in blackness." As the darkness receded sufficiently for him to travel to Westminster for key votes, he decided that — whatever his fate — he should strive to help others. A brilliant photographer, he has undertaken to raise £30,000 for a scientific photography suite in a new centre planned by the Alzheimer's Research Trust. "I know there are people worse than me, and I want to help because Alzheimer's is a terrible illness — the worst you can have.

"But no, I'm not resentful that it happened to me." Instead he was welcoming when the new Labour candidate for the seat he will give up at the general election dropped by to visit. Only Pat Boyes, who had watched her husband's tenacious fight for political recognition, almost wept on his behalf.

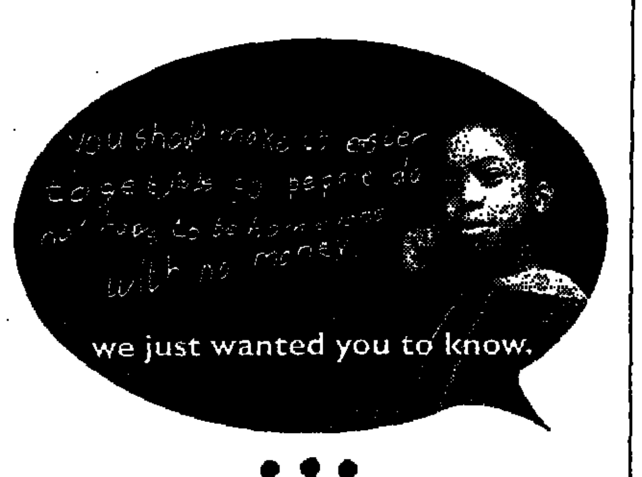
Where is the real Roland?, she wanted to cry. Come back to me. And then, calmer, she took him off to book their holiday on a cruise ship. This year he filled in the forms unaided and paid with his gold card. Last year, she could not leave his side to swim, for fear that he would wander off and get lost.

> 'He's so different, but there are flashes of the old Roland'

Another step forward, but she yearns for more. "He's so different from the old Roland, but flashes are coming through. He is improving. It may be the drugs. It may be the vitamins. We're desperate, you see. We'll try anything."

And still, as she knows, there is no scope here for miracles. Only the hope that money and medicine will eventually provide an answer. "That's all we want: a cure to be found for this dreadful Cinderella disease that no one wants to talk about. A future for Roland . . . and for all the others."

● *The Alzheimer's Research Trust is at G.J. Livanos House, Granhams Road, Cambridge CB2 5LQ (01223 843899)*



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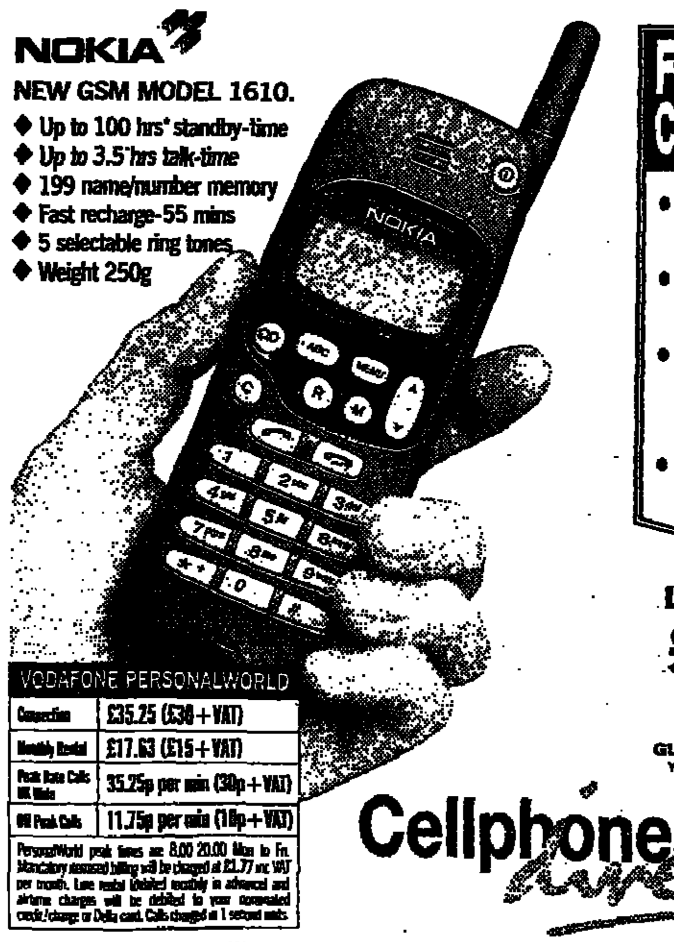

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Sister Frigidaire v Steel Magnolia

Beneath America's presidential election, a more subtle battle is promised.

Martin Fletcher on the contest between Hillary Clinton and Elizabeth Dole

As Bob Dole and Bill Clinton prepare to slug it out in America's impending presidential election, the most intriguing sub-plot is what promises to be an epic proxy battle between their wives.

Elizabeth Dole and Hillary Rodham Clinton are known respectively as the Steel Magnolia and Sister Frigidaire. Both boast *Who's Who* entries longer than their husbands', testaments to their apparently limitless energy and determination to achieve.

Mrs Clinton's campaigning zeal is well documented. In Elizabeth Dole, however, she appears to have met her match. Mrs Dole spends so much time on the road that she and her husband Bob, the Republican presidential nominee and Senate leader, fax their daily schedules to each other.

Indeed, when these two incurable workaholics celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary last year, she was in Iowa and he in Washington. Each had special dinners delivered to the other and ate them while talking on the telephone.

One of Mrs Dole's favourite toys is a torch-pen that allows her to draw up to-do lists in the night without waking her husband on the rare occasions they are home together in their small flat in Washington's Watergate complex. Once, when she was asleep before he returned and had to leave before he woke, she remembered he was addressing a group she had spoken to the previous day. She stuck a message on the bathroom mirror that read: "Don't use the joke about making the bed, I already used it."

To say she is formidable is clearly an understatement. In Elizabeth Dole, the First Lady has finally encountered a woman every bit as smart, driven and accomplished as herself.

Elizabeth Hanford was born 59 years ago to a wealthy family in Salisbury, North Carolina. She was raised a southern belle — riding, taking ballet lessons and attending debutantes' balls — an upbringing far removed from Mrs Clinton's modest childhood in the suburbs of Chicago. But her subsequent résumé easily matches the First Lady's.

Mrs Clinton, who is 48, was class president at the prestigious Wellesley College. Mrs Dole was Duke University's student president and May Queen. Mrs Clinton went on to Yale Law School. Mrs Dole, after a brief stint at Oxford, went on to Harvard Law School.

From Yale, Mrs Clinton went to Washington as a lawyer for the congressional Watergate committee that voted to impeach President Nixon, then married Bill and moved to Arkansas where she taught then practised law. From Harvard Mrs Dole, at that time a registered Democrat, went to Washington to work in Lyndon Johnson's White House and never left.

When Nixon replaced LBJ, Mrs Dole abandoned the Democrats and somehow contrived to remain in the new Republican White House. In 1973 Nixon made her a Federal Trade Commissioner. In 1981, after *The New York Times* had described her as "one of the most stunning women in Washington", President Reagan made her Transportation Secretary. In 1988 President Bush made her Labour Secretary and the only woman ever to hold Cabinet posts in two different administrations.

Let battle begin . . . Hillary Clinton, left, has met in Elizabeth Dole a woman every bit as driven as herself

Three years later Mrs Dole became head of the American Red Cross. She has never had children but claims her public service more than compensates.

Like Mrs Clinton, she is a devout Methodist, and spends 30 minutes every day reading the Bible. Like Mrs Clinton, she has an almost evangelical desire to improve the world; but there the similarities end.

Despite all her work on behalf of women and children, Mrs Clinton still frequently comes across as cold, domineering and self-righteous. She crusades, but too often appears to love humanity only in the abstract. She flaunts her feminism in a deeply conservative country.

Mrs Dole is far subtler in her methods. She conceals her inner steel and ambition beneath a gracious southern charm. She has that ability to make everyone she meets feel special, looking them in the eye and holding a handshake those few extra seconds. Above all, she shrewdly mutes her independence.

Mrs Dole would never insist on being called Elizabeth Hanford Dole the way Mrs Clinton insists on being called Hillary Rodham Clinton. She would never sarcastically tell critics that "I could have stayed home, baked cookies and had teas". While Mrs Clinton refuses to appear subservient, Mrs Dole has four times taken protracted leaves of absence from top jobs to help Bob Dole's presidential and vice-presidential campaigns.

Mrs Dole would certainly not be a passive and ornamental First Lady, but recoils from the idea of becoming a significant public player in her husband's administration — as Mrs Clinton did so disastrously when she tried to reform America's healthcare system.

Her approach is more incremental. If her husband wins, she plans to return to her $200,000-a-year Red Cross job and become the first President's wife to work full-time outside the White House. That much the American public would probably swallow because the Red Cross is a charity and First Ladies are supposed to do good works.

She is, says Senator Dole, a "sensible feminist" who "doesn't threaten anybody".

Mrs Clinton may be more honest about her role and have the greater courage of her convictions, but she has made herself an irresistible target in the process. She has spawned a legion of enemies bent on destroying her. She has suffered endless investigations of her private and professional life. She has become the most polarising and unpopular First Lady on record, and the only one ever subpoenaed to appear before a Federal Grand Jury.

By contrast, nobody has shown much appetite for investigating Mrs Dole's financial affairs, though her personal wealth has increased and questions have been raised about her blind trusts. A recent poll in *The Washington Post* showed her fans outnumbered her detractors by three to one.

Mrs Dole offers warmth and vitality to offset her husband's dourness. She gives astute political advice. She exploits the compelling story of his near-fatal war wounds and the long battle to recover in a way her reticent husband cannot.

The Republicans are confident she will be one of their greatest assets during the next eight months and Mrs Clinton one of the President's biggest liabilities, and while direct attacks on the First Lady might be counter-productive they will seize every chance to contrast the two women. "In any comparison . . . Elizabeth Dole is going to come out wonderfully well," said one Dole campaign strategist.

If Mr Dole does win in November, his wife's reward will be, at long last, a house of her own — at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. When the Doles married in 1975 she moved temporarily into her husband's Watergate bachelor pad, fully intending to buy a proper home at the earliest opportunity. Somehow they never found time.

In praise of cellulite

Let us be proud of our dimples, says **Tunku Varadarajan**

GLEN HARVEY

Royal thighs: the Princess at the Chelsea Harbour Club

I am not, and never will be, a feminist man. I don't think women should be in the Armed Forces, or drive forklift trucks, or play games like rugby, or drink from pint glasses, or be restaurant chefs or fail to wear make-up. But the fairer sex, I have to stress, has my ungrudging support on one bodily issue — that of cellulite.

Let us face the too, too solid facts: many of us suffer from cellulite, and there are as many unhappy male cellulitists out there as there are women who think their stomachs are unsightly. And as the tabloids have now told us this week, the Princess of Wales has also joined the cellulite-afflicted battalions, travelling to her chic riverside fitness club in a coat long enough to veil every blemish on the royal thighs.

There is no body yet devised which does not succumb to the telltale, subcutaneous dimpled effect. You can see it at home and in public, on parts of the body both intimate and obvious: on your wife's upper thighs as she dries herself after a morning shower, on your husband's stomach as it jiggles with every movement of his foaming toothbrush, on the large-bikinied buttocks which thunder past you on a holiday beach, on the undulating "love handles" of the coarse builder who paves your drive in summer.

Yet it is women — only women — who are under pressure to do something about it. Of course we all want women to have lovely, shapely thighs, undimpled stomachs and buttocks without lumps. But are the hassle and fuss about cellulite, the stiff cost involved in keeping it at bay and the accompanying neuroses which drive otherwise healthful women to tears, really things which our society should be proud of?

No, I say, and with vehemence. Let there be cellulite, and let women have it, too. Why can't we throw away those all-over body rubs, those seaweed-based gels, those elasticated bandages, those detoxifying clay solutions, those lymphatic therapies?

Forget the bras . . . why can't we just make a giant bonfire of all those gauze wraps, those cellulite-fighting inflatable plastic boots, those heated encasements? Why don't we take all those fat-reducing aminophylline creams, those coagulants with polysyllabic formulae, those "essential oils for the mature woman" — and dump the whole slimy lot in the high seas a hundred miles from Rockall?

The truth is simple: cellulite is nothing but fat, a substance which women's bodies tend to specialise in to an extent greater than those of men. It is neither a disease nor an affliction and has, in fact, rather a pretty name.

Cellulite. How much more charming it would seem to us if it rhymed with Aphrodite. Perhaps Auden, then, would have written his *Hymn to St Cecilia* thus:

Blonde Cellulite rose up excited
Moved to delight by the melody
White as an orchid she rode quite naked
In an oyster shell on top of the sea.

When should you shop the boss?

Giles Coren on the growing pressures to become the office sneak

BEN GUNN, the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, must be feeling as betrayed as his shaggy-haired namesake in *Treasure Island*. In Stevenson's novel Gunn was marooned by his fellow pirates — now he has been left high and dry again, nabbed for speeding by his own officers.

It is becoming more common for underlings to turn on their employers. MPs are examining the Public Interest Disclosure Bill, which seeks to protect individuals who blow the whistle. Its plans to protect them from dismissal will be some consolation to the traffic cops who eschewed loyalty to the boss for loyalty to the public.

For while Mr Gunn's career is sure to survive the outcry, can they hope for the same lenience?

When the head of research for Brown & Williamson Tobacco, in America, gave evidence that his former employers had lied about a "safer cigarette", teams of private investigators were called in to discredit him, and he lost his job. Just as Manchester United forward Andrei Kanchelskis lost his, after openly condemning manager Alex Ferguson.

The explosion of the Columbia space shuttle, and the disasters at Piper Alpha and Zeebrugge are all thought to have been avoidable, had employees only shopped their bosses. While in America you can buy a guide on "When to Rat on the Boss" the practice had been considered un-British — as squealing on friends.

But now a whistle-blowers' charity has been set up, Public Concern at Work, and Stephen Dorrell's exhortation to doctors to expose incompetent colleagues has been labelled the "whistle-blower's charter".

The stakeholder is dead. Long live the whistle-blower.

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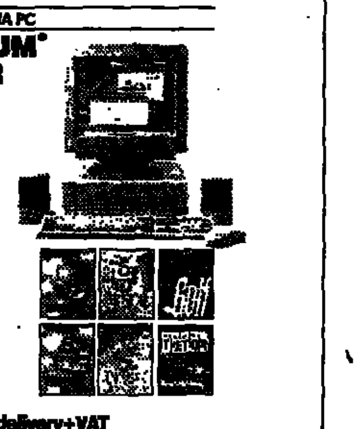


Beware a slaughter too far

An open letter to the Minister of Agriculture, Douglas Hogg, from **Nicholas Budgen**

Dear Douglas,

I hope that a word of warning from a small farmer and hack provincial barrister will not be considered too impertinent, even though it is addressed to a successful minister and distinguished silk. Just two points. One: breeding herds and dairy herds are different. Two: a European compulsory slaughter policy on these herds will be very difficult to enforce.

A preliminary word of sympathy. Your confusion is reflected in the confusion of the British people. I'm sorry that you had a bit of trouble at first with Ken Clarke. He is right about the money. The farmers are a bit like lawyers working on legal aid. They consider themselves independent gentlemen and yet want as much as possible of the taxpayers' money. You can bet that any compensation scheme will be more expensive than anticipated.

Why are breeding herds and dairy herds different? I'm not sure that I can explain or justify my assertion but I can tell you that they are. We draw strange lines in our relations with animals. You, I believe, do a bit of rough shooting. I don't want to stop anyone else shooting but I do not want to shoot myself. Yet I have hunted all my life.

Farmers draw a line between the animals to go to slaughter and those kept for breeding and milking. When Daisy can no longer milk well or produce a suckler calf, we send her to the barren cow market. We send her with regret, but it is all part of the cycle of life and death on the farm. There seems nothing wrong about it. It does not matter much to the farmer whether McDonald's, the British taxpayer or the European Union pays for dead Daisy.

You are on a slippery slope with compulsory slaughter

You have already come a long way since your first suggestion that you would buy up the barren cows voluntarily. Your friends in Europe last week forced you into the 30-month rule. Under the amendment order of April 3, no person may sell for human consumption any meat derived from a bovine animal aged over two years and six months. As you know, this doesn't have much effect upon the heifer market. They get fat before 30 months. However, an unknown proportion of bullocks are traditionally killed at ages over two-and-a-half years. Some people estimate that up to 80 per cent of fatted bullocks are sold over the age limit. They are each worth between £800 and £1,000. This sum could be multiplied by between a quarter and half-a-million bullocks. As Ken would point out, quite a bit of tax relief.

You are on a dangerous slope over the compulsory slaughtering of selected herds. You told the House of Commons last week that you were "looking at" some plans for selective slaughter of herds at high risk of BSE. This is not how it is understood in the Commission. They believe that you have agreed to bring forward such plans at the end of the month. Worse, we hear that the French and the Germans will only help if we help on their proposals elsewhere — for instance, over the ERM. So there is a real chance that you will be forced into taking action which you regard as unnecessary and disproportionate. (I suppose they have got you by the system of qualified majority voting.)

Touch the herds and you're in for trouble. For a farmer who keeps animals, his herd is the centre of his life. He has tended it. He has got up at 5am every morning to milk the cows. Even a part-time beef farmer has calved cows in the middle of the night. He has given up time and money and leisure to improve his herd. To kill the herd is to kill a part of him and his family.

So you think that this is a silly, sentimental view which will not be reflected in the attitude of modern farmers? Well, get your officials to look up the records of foot-and-mouth disease in the late 1960s. The disease was contagious. The slaughter policy was based upon scientific evidence. The policy was agreed by everyone in authority to be a necessity, however unpleasant. The law was the domestic law. Yet for all this, many professionals will tell you of farmers and their wives who stood at the end of their drives, shotguns at the ready, determined to repel the Ministry men.

A row now over the compulsory slaughter of herds will show the difference between European and domestic law. You have already demolished any justification for a compulsory slaughter policy. You said at the beginning that the worldwide ban on our exports was not based upon scientific evidence and was unjust and disproportionate. The compulsory slaughter policy will be a part of the price of buying off a ban that ought never to have been upon us. Further, there's no scientific evidence to support the slaughter of herds.

What about the rule of law, you will ask. Well, we strain the rule of law by telling our people that we cannot change our European masters and legislators and that we have no hope of amending their unjust and cruel laws.

I wonder if Britain will obey laws requiring the compulsory slaughter of breeding stock and dairy herds. Just think of the images on television. The crying farmer, the distressed wife, the distraught stockmen. The JCB pushing carcasses on to a great fire or into a vast pit. You appearing on *Newsnight* to explain to Jeremy Paxman that there is no scientific justification for the slaughter. Who will the British public support? Of course, you'll get the blame. The cause of Euroscepticism will get the benefit.

Yours ever, Nicholas

The author is Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-West.

Wine, women and Labour

Why should rich socialists like the Folletts prefer tea to champagne?

William Rees-Mogg

Like most journalists I have often thought it would be pleasant to make my fortune by writing a bestseller, but have seldom got beyond the first page, let alone the first chapter. As readers might guess, my imagination leant towards the historical romantic fiction of A.E.W. Mason or the Baroness Orczy. Not for me the heroics of the racecourse, the American bar, the prisoner-of-war camp or MI6. I preferred the more leisurely adventures that could be set in earlier centuries, in a period not only before John le Carré, or Ian Fleming, but even before John Buchan.

I have only been left with a few opening lines: "Colonel von Blitzen's monocle fell into the brown windsor soup. 'Mein Gott, ma'am!' he spluttered." "The prime minister lovingly lit his cigar: 'I need a couple of million tonight, Rothschild, to buy the Suez Canal'." "The shot ran out; the bullet pierced the ribbon of his VC and penetrated the honest heart that beat beneath it." "As he kissed her swan-like neck, his cavalry moustache caught awkwardly in the lacing of her bodice." "'The ace of spades be damned,' he whispered, and fell back dead into her arms."

It can be seen that any of these lines might have been the start of a real page-turner, but my trouble is that I have no narrative fluency. I could never work out what might happen next.

Nevertheless, the experience of repeated failure has made me realise how difficult it is to write a bestseller, and given me a proper respect for those who have mastered the art. I even have great respect for Jeffrey Archer, who has done what I failed to do. Naturally, this admiration extends to Ken Follett. I have several of his novels in paperback on my shelves, most of which I have read while flying the Atlantic. In the days when I was a trade publisher, I would have signed almost any contract to persuade him to write for Sidgwick & Jackson. It is said that his books have been so successful that he, like Lord Archer, is more than a millionaire.

Ken Follett is a supporter of the Labour Party, and his wife, Barbara, is actually the Labour candidate for Stevenage, a marginal Tory seat which Labour expects to win. In Tuesday's *Times* Julia Llewellyn Smith wrote a most intriguing account of the back-biting that has followed. The Folletts are accused of being "champagne socialists" — presumably a lesser offence than Nye Bevan's role as a "Bollinger Bolshevik" at the court of Lord Beaverbrook.

The local criticisms cover a number of points. "I think she has been here to try and get on," says one Labour volunteer. "I can't understand someone with all that money coming in as a Labour candidate. I'm not happy about that Follett woman. What does she know about the people in Stevenage and their problems?" asks an unemployed Labour supporter. "Why does she need another house? She should have given it to the homeless."

Despite the fact that the Folletts have sponsored the kit of the top-scoring striker at Stevenage Borough Football Club — something that would never have occurred to me — Barbara Follett is also criticised for not talking to the young voters who go to the Yorkshire Grey pub, which is the Folletts' local. These young people are said to earn £100 a week, which does not seem a lot, and to spend £95 of it on Friday and Saturday nights, which sounds improvident, if the landlord has got his figures right. There is also some criticism about a planning application, but there always is.

At first sight one can take a certain pleasure in the discomforture of the Folletts, which will, after all, be much assuaged when Barbara Follett is duly returned as the Member of Parliament for Stevenage at the next election. The Labour Party has made social envy part of its stock-in-trade from the beginning.

Now that Labour has become the preferred choice of many well-to-do middle-class people, they can only expect to get a taste of their own medicine. As a first reaction, that is fair enough. Britain is a country which is steeped in the boring self-pity of inverted snobbery; where Americans admire success, we tend to treat it as some sort of personality defect: the Labour Party has reinforced this odious social attitude, which is just as bad as ordinary snobbery; we can afford a brief period of satisfaction.

It should only be a brief period. No doubt the Labour Party has played on the social envy that exists in British culture, but it is not confined to the Labour Party. Unfortunately, it is endemic, and, if anything, seems to be getting worse. The sourness of the National Union of Teachers' conference, and its dominance by anti-democratic, left-wing factions, is symptomatic of this green-eyed social bitterness. Even the Conservative Party is by no means free of these jealousies.

No doubt Barbara Follett does want to "get on". She has a proper ambition to get into Parliament, and has been prepared to put a lot of work into achieving it. This is her third attempt. Even this ambition is seen as an object of envy by her more mean-minded supporters. Perhaps overweening ambition can be a fault, but Barbara Follett is not some kind of dotty Napoleon, willing to sacrifice millions to her personal glory. She is simply a hard-working woman with a social conscience. One may disagree with her politics, but it is important that able people should sacrifice their time and comfort to political work.

Nobody can say that the Folletts are likely to benefit personally from the policies of the Labour Party. No doubt they are rich: by British, though not by American or Hong Kong standards, they may be exceptionally rich. That means that they already pay substantial income taxes. Despite this Government's unsatisfactory tax record, the Conservatives are likely on average to impose lower marginal rates of income tax than Labour. That difference may or may not prove a large one, but whatever it may be, the Folletts are not acting in their own personal interest in supporting Labour.

Then there is champagne. I do not know how much champagne is actually consumed by champagne socialists. Bismarck calculated that he had drunk 10,000 bottles of champagne and smoked 50,000 cigars in his lifetime. But he is usually, though perhaps wrongly, regarded as a man of the Right. My impression is that champagne socialists are really dry white wine socialists nowadays, a good white burgundy from Berry Brothers in the Hampstead set, and something quite acceptable from the Napa Valley in Islington.

Whichever it is, drinkable wine is a sign of humanity. One of the troubles of the Labour Party has been its inheritance of the cold traditions of English puritanism. In the most successful Labour administration, Clement Attlee's from 1945 to 1951, austerity was valued for its own sake, particularly by Sir Stafford Cripps, and was imposed on people who did not share this puritan ethic. Even today Tony Benn combines left-wing orthodoxy with teetotalism, and would, I imagine, view Tony Blair's set as both unacceptably right-wing and as too pleasure-loving for his taste.

One of my own objections to socialist theory is that socialists so often do get the wine issue wrong. They think that no one should drink champagne unless everyone can do so. I believe in the politics of pluralism, which were so well described by John Locke. "The mind has a different relish, as well as the palate; and you will as fruitlessly endeavour to delight all men with riches or glory (which yet some men place their happiness in) as you would satisfy all men's hunger with cheese or lobsters, which though very agreeable and delicious fare to some, are to others extremely nauseous and offensive . . . Men may choose different things, and yet all choose right, supposing them only like a company of poor insects, whereof some are bees, delighted with flowers and their sweetness, others beetles, delighted with other kinds of viands."

If the Follets do prefer chilled champagne to stewed tea, that is their choice, and I shall toast in Pol Roger their right to enjoy it. I regard them as numbered among the busy bees, willing to work hard for the flowers and sweetness of life.

Making friends of the fiends

Magnus Linklater

on how to handle violent children

The cemetery in the small mining town of Larkhall, Lanarkshire, was vandalised at Easter. Nearly 100 headstones, some of them dating back more than a century, were wrenched from the grass, smashed or upended. Visitors on Easter Monday were confronted with a scene of desecration where once there had been a neat, well-tended graveyard.

A wrecked cemetery is always a shocking sight — this was a crude and cowardly act of destruction — but what made things worse in this case was that it seemed to have been the work of teenagers, some even younger. Larkhall, where acts of random violence have become almost a way of life, has been described as a town under siege from young people.

Larkhall is by no means unique. Further north, the headmaster of a school in the gentle town of Forfar has had to campaign to stop his younger pupils using obscene words as a routine part of their vocabulary. This week's conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers heard evidence that some three-year-olds now cause such mayhem in class that they have to be sent home from nurseries. A friend of mine who teaches young children in London says that this year's intake is the most difficult she has ever had to manage.

"A generation without rules", is the way one commentator describes those young people who have no structure to their home lives, whose parents may be separated or simply absent, or who are deprived of the normal routine of family life. With no codes of behaviour and no conventional relationships to guide them, it is unsurprising if they drop out of society. These are children who have lost their place.

What is more disturbing is the resentment that may go with that. A generation for whom society has little to offer may simply turn against it, extracting retribution for a suffering they cannot resolve in any other way. Smashing gravestones, terrorising a village, or making a young teacher's life hell may be the only way they have of avenging their sense of loss.

But whatever the root causes of youth violence, the end product is depressingly predictable — a steady progression of young offenders passing through juvenile courts, secure accommodation and then prison. Britain has the largest prison population in Europe, and it is in the disjointed families, the unruly classrooms or the teenage street gangs that the problems begin.

That is where it should be tackled: prevention rather than punishment should be the guiding principle. That, however, is not how the judicial system in England and Wales works. The Home Office response is to build yet more prisons or to explore Amercian-style strategies which offer short, sharp shocks rather than long-term recovery programmes. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has a simplistic response to violent crime — lock up the offenders and keep them off the streets for as long as possible. But this leaves little chance of developing a penal policy that attempts to deal with the problem before children grow up.

In Scotland, the children's panel system — the nearest equivalent to an English juvenile court — takes as its starting point the needs rather than the deeds of a child in trouble. Its decisions carry legal weight, but it has no punitive role. Instead, it seeks to address the circumstances which have brought a child before it. A case may be referred by police, social worker or school. The child may be involved in truancy, petty crime, abuse or anything that seems likely to put a child at risk. The panel can convene everyone involved in the case — parents, teachers, social workers or friends — to discuss the background and to come up with decisions aimed at addressing the root cause of the problem rather than assigning blame.

The panel may make a supervision order, thus putting a child under the care of a social work department, refer a child to a special school, place it with foster parents, or, in extreme cases, recommend that a child be held in secure accommodation if the child or the public is at risk. The panel's decisions are under constant review, and a case may be referred back. This provides a chance to monitor the progress of a child at risk and learn about the family background, before coming up with possible solutions.

An offender below the age of 16 will always be referred initially to a children's panel rather than a court. If the child denies charges, the case will be referred to a sheriff's court. Once proof has been established the case will come back to the children's panel, not to assign punishment but to seek a way forward.

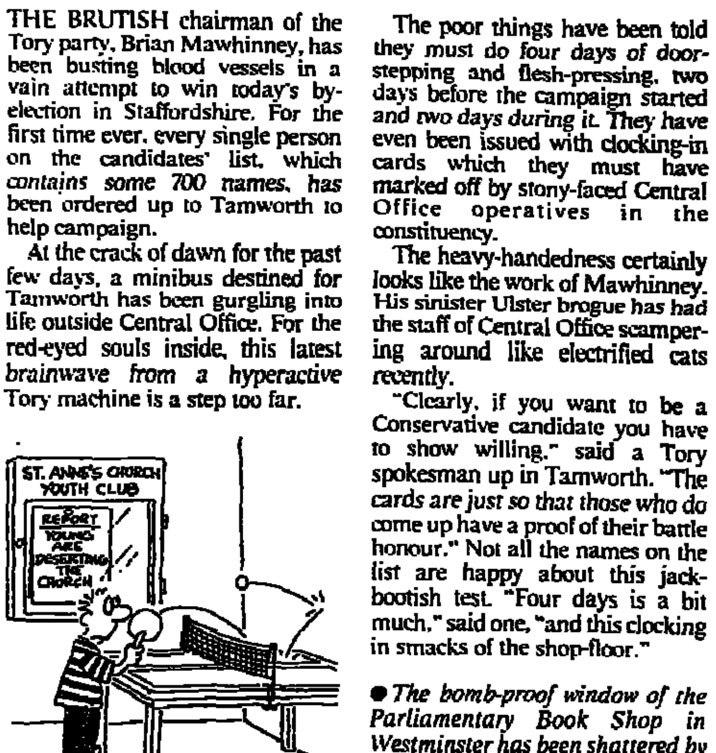
The children's panel system is not without its faults: it has found no answer to the teenage gangs of Larkhall. But it is certainly a more humane and far-sighted approach to a lost generation than anything available in England and Wales, or even the rest of Europe. It was a Scottish judge, Lord Kilbrandon, who recommended it in the first place. Perhaps Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, should follow suit.

THE TIMES DIARY

Brute force

THE BRUTISH chairman of the Tory party, Brian Mawhinney, has been busting blood vessels in a vain attempt to win today's by-election in Staffordshire. For the first time ever, every single person on the candidates' list, which contains some 700 names, has been ordered up to Tamworth to help campaign.

At the crack of dawn for the past few days, a minibus destined for Tamworth has been gurgling into life outside Central Office. For the red-eyed souls inside, this latest brainwave from a hyperactive Tory machine is a step too far.


ST. ANNE'S CHURCH YOUTH CLUB
REPORT YOUNG ARE DESERTING THE CHURCH
Geoff Thompson

The poor things have been told they must do four days of door-stepping and flesh-pressing, two days before the campaign started and two days during it. They have even been issued with clocking-in cards which they must have marked off by stony-faced Central Office operatives in the constituency.

The heavy-handedness certainly looks like the work of Mawhinney. His sinister Ulster brogue has had the staff of Central Office scampering around like electrified cats recently.

"Clearly, if you want to be a Conservative candidate you have to show willing," said a Tory spokesman up in Tamworth. "The cards are just so that those who do come up have a proof of their battle honour." Not all the names on the list are happy about this jackbootish test. "Four days is a bit much," said one, "and this clocking in smacks of the shop-floor."

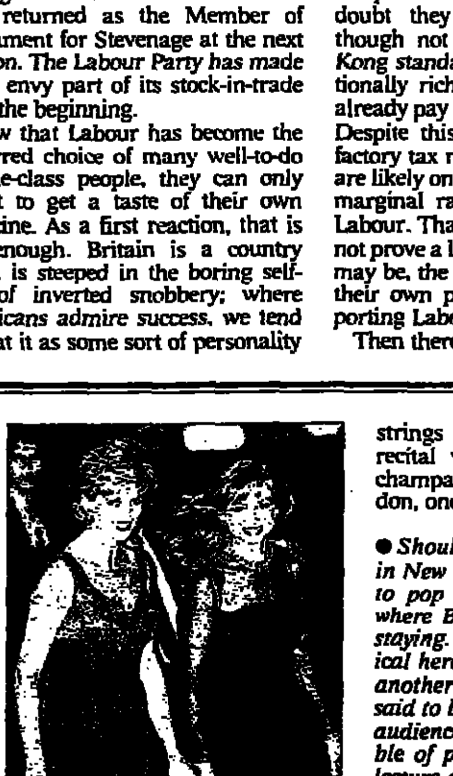
● *The bomb-proof window of the Parliamentary Book Shop in Westminster has been shattered by an angry granny. Her motive unknown, the old girl wrought havoc the other night when she bashed the picture window repeatedly with her handbag.*

Blood brother

AS Liberia tears itself apart once more, some extraordinary names are playing their part. Aside from the headline-grabbing Roosevelt Johnson and his rebel forces, the Liberia Peace Council, who are anything but peaceful, boast a teenaged Major-General Ambush Rebel. Presumably, he is some relation of the famed Liberian, Brigadier-General Armed Uprising.

Bag lady

SHOULDER pads and snappy evening bags will be brandished unashamedly at the Purcell Room in London's South Bank Centre tonight, where one of the smartest ladies of the fashion world is to give a piano recital.



Hélène Mercier-Arnault and the Princess of Wales

Hélène Mercier-Arnault, whose husband Bernard runs suitcase-makers Louis Vuitton, will risk her nail varnish on the keyboards for invited friends including the Princess of Wales and Madame Chirac. An accomplished performer, who first played when she was six, she is a good friend of the Princess and accompanied her to the Cézanne exhibition in Paris.

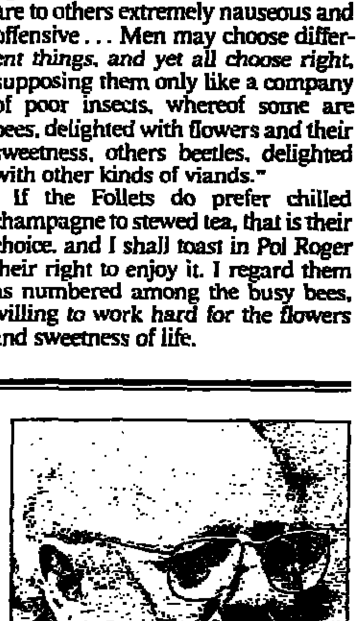
Bernard has been pulling a few strings to indulge his wife — the recital will be awash with free champagne from Moët & Chandon, one of his little companies.

● *Should Tony Blair feel homesick in New York today, he might care to pop in to the Carlyle Hotel, where Baroness Thatcher will be staying. The Labour leader's political heroine is over in America on another of her lecture tours and is said to be growing irritated by her audiences. After going to the trouble of preparing a statesmanlike lecture on global affairs, the first question she is almost inevitably asked is: "Can you tell us about Charles and Di?"*

Disjointed

JAMES GROUT is an actor of undoubted courage. Although best known for his role as Chief Superintendent Strange in *Inspector Morse*, his most exciting appearance to date was as a 60-year-old, well-rounded history professor who prepared his lectures in the nude in the series *A Very Peculiar Practice*.

So I feel bound to report that it wasn't his nerve that let him down in his latest role, but his knees. Just a few weeks after he opened as Talbot in *Mary Stuart*, at the National Theatre, his understudy has now taken over. Set designers are to blame, for their sloping stage has proved too much for the Grout cartilage, and an old knee injury has flared up. "His doctor advised him to rest his knees," says a stagehand.



On his knees: James Grout is praying for the pain to pass

● *Teething problems for the Prince of Wales have encouraged a Cumbrian toffee maker to alter his recipe. Neil Boustead, of Neil's Toffee Shop in Penrith, has been supplying Highgrove with jaw-straining treacle toffee for some time. "But we are now planning a new treacle fudge because he told me traditional treacle toffee pulls his fillings out."*

P·H·S

THE EMPTY PEW

Revealed truth, not "resources", will bring the young to God

The Jesuits believed that if they had a child until he was seven they would have him for life. Jealous of every wayward soul, churches throughout history have been anxious to capture the young before another denomination, or the Devil, claimed them. The Church of England, then, is understandably worried about the drop, by a third over the past nine years, in the number of young people in its pews. But the recommendations of the Church's own working party appear unlikely to arrest, let alone reverse, the decline.

Written in the prose of the management manual rather than the Authorised Version, it betrays a cast of mind which is bureaucratic and passionless. The national Church is withering, with a dramatic decline in attendance among the most impressionable and spiritually hungry section of the population, and the working party is obsessed with "resources".

The first recommendation the working party makes is to assert that, "the allocation of resources is paramount". To that end it urges the Church as a whole to examine its budget and recommends an "audit of resources allocated to youth work". Reading these arid thoughts it is impossible not to ask if the authors, including the Bishop of Carlisle, are really the apostolic heirs of martyrs and evangelists or ersatz accountants. How does the Church expect to attract young people, anxious to find an alternative to materialism and searching for the spiritual when its first answer to any problem is financial? Rather than prating about resource reallocation, the Church should expend all its energies preaching the Gospel. By doing just that, other churches have flourished.

The pattern of teenage life is now such that the Church youth group or scout troop plays an ever smaller part in the social life of the young. But that does not mean the interest in the eternal questions of existence which is the best route to religious faith has diminished. By presenting an unapologetic Christianity, evangelical and pentecostal churches have attracted, and held, a growing congregation among the young.

The style of worship is accessible but, more importantly, the theology and morality are demanding. By seeking to ape the informality of its rivals the Church of England has mistakenly attributed their appeal to the style of service and not the substance of the sermons. A few choruses on the guitar will not satisfy the questing soul in the way that honest engagement with the challenge of Christianity can.

The style of worship is not, however, irrelevant; indeed there is every indication that modernising the Anglican liturgy has had an effect on attendance — it has hastened its decline. The same barren prose of the Church's working party report characterises current worship. In the beginning was the Word; and language, as much as anything, has kept this country Christian. The incomparable beauty of the King James Bible and Book of Common Prayer which drew generations of Englishmen to God has been replaced in the past 30 years by a liturgy already anachronistic and unequal to communicating the sense of mystery and awe central to worship. Intended to appeal to modern tastes, it failed because people turn to the Church not for fashion, but for transcendent and timeless truth.

Restless innovation will not reverse the Anglican Church's decline. The last time the national churches, in England and Scotland, experienced a dramatic revival was when, as a result of the Oxford Movement and the Disruption respectively, their clergy returned to their roots. Perhaps the Church should recognise that the young will, like the prodigal son, come back to faith anyway after sowing some wild oats. But that return will be more likely if the Church remains on firm foundations.

OUT OF LIBERIA

The West should not wash its hands of this wretched case

For the second time this decade, America has rushed troops to Liberia. Their sole mission, as it was in 1990, is to spirit American and other foreign nationals out of Monrovia, the miserable capital of a country morally as well as physically bankrupted by an exceptionally vicious civil war. The US has an obvious duty to protect its nationals and Liberian battle-zones are as anarchic as they are brutal. Since Roosevelt Johnson, the warlord who provoked the latest confrontation, had seized hundreds of hostages as human shields, evacuation was prudent. But Washington's concern should not end there. The US, whose freed slaves founded Liberia as a state, cannot escape the consequences of its continuing influence there; if it is seen to be washing its hands of this wretched country, that could tip the scales back to war.

The renewed fighting exposes the ragged nature of the peace deal between Liberia's armed factions but does not yet make its total breakdown inevitable. Since Charles Taylor, the most powerful of Liberia's seven murderous warlords, unleashed the civil war in 1989, the rivals for the victor's spoils have signed, and broken, around 20 ceasefires and a dozen externally brokered peace accords. But the most recent of these, signed last August, holds out more hope than most. That is not because Liberia's soldier-bandits have been seized by contrition, but because their respective ambitions are now more likely to be furthered by peace.

This war has been driven not by ideology nor even, despite the tensions between the Americo-Liberians and the 16 indigenous tribes, by tribal hatreds, but by the insatiable greed of the faction-leaders. After six years of massacres, looting and pillage, houses have lost even their doorframes, the railbeds have no rails and the streets no lampposts. Ecomog, the West African force deployed in 1990 to restore peace, has prevented some atrocities. But its ill-paid soldiers have joined the looting; the bitter local joke is that Ecomog's acronym means "Every Car or Moveable Object Gone."

By last August, there was so little left to steal at gunpoint that the three most powerful of these bandit soldiers decided that they had a common interest in signing up to a ceasefire, demobilisation and elections later this year. They calculate that if they stop fighting, the coffers will be replenished with emergency aid and investment, from which they can then take their cut.

The root of the current trouble is that the peace deal made some warlords — notably Mr Taylor, the probable victor if elections go ahead — more equal than others. In theory, Liberia has been governed since August by a six-member transitional council, including civilians. In practice, power has been carved up between Mr Taylor, George Boley and Alhaji Kromah, in a tactical alliance that has nothing to do with the patriotism, peace or democracy proclaimed in the flowery titles their respective militias bear. Mr Johnson, given only a minor government post, busied himself with looting aid convoys and illegal diamond mining until his commanders ousted him as leader of his own breakaway faction. When the council then sacked him, he began a ferocious armed revolt; it culminated in last weekend's attempt by the ruling council to arrest him on charges of murder.

Mr Johnson has promised to turn himself over to Ecomog or UN observers. If he does, peace still has a slim chance. However imperfectly, Ecomog is doing a job that the West is not willing to do. It needs Western financial help to boost its force levels and — effectively — to bribe the militias to disarm. Liberia's traumatised people, nearly half of whom have fled their homes, cannot rebuild their lives alone. Donors will have to work with Liberia's criminal warlords, knowing that much Western aid will go astray. They should hold their noses, and help.

OF TUBBY MICE AND MEN

What mouse genes tell us about the middle-age spread

One of the greatest pleasures of middle age is to find out that one always has the right answer. A less happy feature of the same age, however, is to find out that one quite often has the wrong shape.

Middle age — when one can do just as much as ever, but would rather not — is the time when most bodies expand and some horizons shrink. It is the time when those lunches of several years cause chests to "slip down to the mezzanine floor" (as Jeeves once put it vividly), and when the only thing that gets thinner is the hair on the head. And only middle age can provoke poignant laments like this one, by the late (but not light) Lord Goodman: "Every so often I lose weight, and, to my horror and indignation, I find in the quiet of the night somebody has put it back on."

But help for the rotund, and a breakthrough for fatties, are now at hand from a most unlikely source. A laboratory in Maine, whose research is published in today's issue of *Nature*, has found that the pattern of portliness in the "tubby mouse" — a natural mutation from the common or laboratory mouse — "strongly resembles the late-onset obesity seen in the human population". In other words, the middle-aged tubby mouse expands around the waist in much the same manner, say, as a stalwart of the Garrick Club, a school headmistress or a senior shop steward.

There is more. This circumferentially-challenged rodent can apparently blame its tubbiness on the sweetly-named "mouse chromosome 7", whose genes reveal a misspelling in their DNA sequence. The researchers believe that there must — somewhere, some place, some paunch — be the middle-aged human equivalent of mouse chromosome 7, and that the corrective process by which the roly-poly gene is tackled in tubby mice might also help make svelte Jack Sprats of those 50-something men who are at present broadish in the beam.

How very pleasant it would be for us all if these nice American researchers are correct in their conjecture. Let us hope they are, and that we all have a mouse chromosome 7 lodged in our adipose deposits. It would deliver one at a stroke from such evils as exercise, diets, weight-watching, low-calorie tonic water, fat-free whisky and salads. Thanks to the tubby mouse and mouse chromosome 7, one could succumb to the lure of excess, and be seduced by the siren call of gluttony and indulgence. Nothing, as wild Oscar wrote, succeeds like excess. And after all, one is only middle-aged once.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Farming outlook in BSE aftermath

From Sir Michael Spicer, MP for Worcestershire South (Conservative)

Sir, The crisis facing British agriculture in general and the beef industry in particular has not gone away over the Easter holidays. On the contrary April 29, the deadline laid down by European agricultural ministers for Britain to propose an "acceptable" cow-slaughter policy, looms closer.

The European "offer" to pay 70 per cent of the cost of destroying much of our beef and milk herds would, if accepted, mean in practice that the British taxpayer would put up over 80 per cent of the cash — given that three quarters of the payments made by the other European countries would be set against rebates at present due to Britain under common agricultural policy (CAP) arrangements. We would also have to contribute towards the cost of destroying British-bred cattle in France and Holland.

Since the contribution of the other European countries would be negligible, two things follow. First, we should only contemplate slaughtering cows whose death is in the direct proven interest of British consumers and beef producers. We should certainly not pander to the dictats of competitive interests on the continent of Europe.

Secondly it will probably be best (certainly cheaper) to pay for it all ourselves directly rather than to engage in the wasteful charade of recycling our money through the European Union.

If this means the de facto return to a nationally-based deficiency payments system and the beginning of the end of the CAP, so be it. The CAP will in any event need to be replaced if the countries of Eastern Europe are ever to join the EU.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SPICER,
House of Commons.
April 8.

From Mr D. H. Braggins

Sir, The letter from the Chief Executive of the RSPB and others (April 5) draws attention to the implications for the countryside created by the crisis in the beef industry and calls for the need to develop agricultural policies that are sensitive to the environment. What it does not mention is the unique opportunity that this would present to improve our rivers.

The growth of the beef and dairy industries and the introduction of intensive farming methods have inevitably led to problems over the disposal of farm waste. Slurry-spreading and the use of pesticides and fertilisers near watercourses have introduced excessive nitrates and phosphates into the river systems to the detriment of plants, fish and animals. If there is to be a large cull of cattle it would be timely for the Ministry of Agriculture to finance the set-aside scheme for the re-creation of water-fringe habitats and buffer strips to reduce pollution of our rivers.

The scheme should be implemented in conjunction with the newly created Environment Agency and, in the first instance, should be targeted at the 25 rivers which English Nature is seeking to protect as sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs). These have been identified as examples of the best rivers for wildlife but are suffering from pollution and require remedial action.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK BRAGGINS,
Blue Ball,
Payhembury, Nr Honiton, Devon.
April 5.

From Ms Jan Morris

Sir, I am sure Sir Jeremy Chance is right (letter, April 4) in saying that farmers did not realise the cannibalistic nature of their cattle-feeds. For many years, however, they have been as aware as the rest of us of the cruelties and catastrophic results of their intensive farming methods.

Perhaps the beef crisis will bring them to their senses: the day will come, I have no doubt, when crimes against nature will be seen to be as terrible as crimes against humanity.

There will be no pleading ignorance then.

Yours faithfully,
JAN MORRIS,
Trefan Morys,
Llanystumdwy, Gwynedd.
April 9.

From Mr M. W. S. Hitchcock

Sir, I was employed by an animal-feed manufacturer from 1947 to 1990 and clearly recollect that it was the Ministry of Food who issued regulations making it obligatory for compounders of dairy rations to include a minimum of 2.5 per cent meat and bonemeal.

This ruling was imposed in the early 1940s and continued almost to the end of feedingstuffs rationing on August 1, 1953. By then, most of us in the industry understood the importance of animal protein in dairy rations in order to provide the best possible proportions of essential amino acids, since the main vegetable proteins in use at that time were not so rich in these respects.

As fish meal was suspected of giving a taint to milk, meat and bonemeal was the only alternative available.

Yours sincerely,
M. W. S. HITCHCOCK,
Mount Lofty Lodge,
Skates Hill,
Glemsford, Sudbury, Suffolk.
April 8.

Future of Nato for Europe's defence

From Mrs Elizabeth Young

Sir, The views John Redwood advances in his article, "Saving Europe from itself" (March 29), suggest he has not been following recent developments in United States opinions and policies very closely.

Baroness Thatcher has. In her Fulton speech (report and leading article, March 11) she made perfectly clear the choice that lies before us: either (as she advocates) we hand up our security to the United States President for him to manage — the Nato Alliance becoming "a permanent one resting on the solid foundations of American leadership"; or we don't, and we look after it as best we can among all these Europeans whom neither she nor Mr Redwood has much time for: she has "very serious doubts about the currently fashionable idea of a separate 'defence identity' within the Alliance".

The trouble with accepting permanent "American leadership" (along with hugely expensive, probably fallible, high-technology security — particularly anti-missile defences against various "rogue states" in the Middle East) is that we would be trading-in just the sovereignty and liberties with which Mr Redwood and Lady Thatcher have sought to identify themselves.

US extraterritorial economic and military claims expand daily and the idea that we and our European neighbours might negotiate more equably and effectively with the United States in support of our own interests if we subject ourselves to them militarily is dangerous fantasy.

One of Winston Churchill's perennial problems was to stay out from under the treads of the American juggernaut: we still have to.

Yours etc,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Bayswater Road, W2.
April 1.

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, The news (report, March 30) of the new economic union between some of the states of the former Soviet Union adds new urgency to the case for reaffirming Nato as Western Europe's primary defence. It is obvious, as Bosnia has shown, that we cannot do without the Americans, so it was pleasing that the White Paper on the inter-governmental conference (IGC) confirmed the Government's support for Nato. But the Conclusions of the IGC summit at Turin made no mention of Nato; they simply call for improving the "operational capability available to the Union".

It is no secret that the federalists want the Western European Union to become the armed forces of the EU, which in turn would mean the end of Nato. The great pity is that Javier Solana, the Secretary General of Nato, seems to be fulfilling the predictions I made in my article in *The Times* on December 7, 1995, by helping to undermine his own organisation: it was reported in *Le Figaro* (March 28) that he has said:

> We must explain to the Russians that Nato has changed, that it has new missions, and that it seeks a profound relationship with Russia . . . We must not be fixated on Nato. We must emphasise the totality of relations between Europe and Russia. There is the Council of Europe. There is the European Union and perhaps even, one day, the WEU.

It is vital for our defence that we do not allow the twin pressures of Russia and the federalists to dilute the efficacy of Nato and the role of the Americans. The Government must stand firm on this at the IGC.

Yours etc,
BILL CASH (Chairman),
The European Foundation,
61 Pall Mall, SW1.
April 2.

Job flexibility

From the Director of the Employment Policy Institute

Sir, One might agree that greater labour-market flexibility has a role to play in combating European unemployment. But it is far from obvious that this "inescapably means cuts in welfare protection, non-wage labour costs and job protection regulation" ("Political jobbery", leading article, April 2).

With regard to regulation, for example, your conclusion rests on too narrow a definition of "flexibility". Although there may be advantages to increasing employers' ability to hire and fire, if pushed too far this kind of flexibility can detract from "task flexibility" — ie, the ease with which workers can be switched from task to task.

Task flexibility depends upon the degree to which workers are skilled and adaptable. It is aided by encouraging stable long-term relationships between employers and workers which foster employee commitment and provide firms with a greater incentive to invest in training.

If policymakers promote hire-and-fire flexibility too far above task flexibility they may thus end up boosting low-paid, low-productivity jobs at the expense of failing to create a competitive, high-skill economy capable of generating better quality and more secure jobs.

"Security of employability" is the key buzz-phrase to have emerged from this week's G7 jobs summit in Lille. The focus of sensible debate should be whether this is better achieved by some form of regulation or instead through voluntary means. Either way, however, one should avoid the mistake of concluding that a crude hire-and-fire culture offers the best route to competitiveness and job-creation throughout the EU.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PHILPOTT, Director,
Employment Policy Institute,
Southbank House,
Black Prince Road, SE1.
April 2.

Norfolk's tribal chief

From the Earl of Sandwich

Sir, You rightly point out (leading article, April 8) that the election of Lynne Symonds as honorary chief of the Mamprusi tribe is an example of the value of personal contributions in overseas aid-giving. You could have added that such commitment also honours and inspires the Norfolk community who have supported her work as a teacher and fundraiser.

Awareness of needs overseas is an important, and still neglected, part of the aid-giving process. Aid agencies like Christian Aid and Oxfam are actively engaged in "development education", with some support from the European Union, the Overseas Development Administration and a few of the more aware politicians.

Public support for overseas aid is much enhanced by individual initiatives like Lynne's, which are often the best means of giving schools and local communities a direct experience of problems abroad and of the possibility of solutions.

Yours sincerely,
SANDWICH
(Development journalist,
Christian Aid, 1974-86),
Mapperton House,
Beaminster, Dorset.
April 9.

In praise of comets

From Sir Arnold Wolfendale, FRS, President of the Institute of Physics

Sir, Your correspondents write (April 2 and 5) "how boring comets are" and "give me shooting stars any day". Really, what a travesty of the truth.

The present comet, easily seen by everyone on cloudless nights, is a wonder to behold, and to appreciate. It arrived in our skies quite unexpectedly, having apparently been lost in the vicinity of the Sun in Stone Age times. It represents a sample of matter left over when the planets were formed and its study will help us to understand how the Earth came about.

Careful viewing of the comet will reveal its tail, pointing away from the Sun and the seat of all sorts of interesting physics and chemistry — a unique laboratory in space.

On a more sombre note, one day a comet will head directly for the Earth and *that* will certainly not be a boring event; "terminal" might be a better word to use. However, such an event is not likely for a few million years and even then it may be possible to deflect it; our successors will then live to view another day.

Yours sincerely,
ARNOLD WOLFENDALE
(Astronomer Royal, 1991-95),
University of Durham,
Department of Physics,
Science Laboratories,
South Road, Durham.
April 5.

Private passions

From Mr Gavin G. R. McEwan

Sir, If the views of Mr Seán Fear (letter, April 3; see also letter, April 8) are correct, then surely employers should not be permitted to discriminate against prospective employees only on grounds of sexual orientation? The logical extension of his argument is that they should also be allowed to discriminate on grounds of sex, age, race, religion and any other ground they choose.

Personally, I would refuse to employ anyone who had written a morally repugnant letter to the Editor of *The Times*, and would gladly discriminate against Mr Fear on that ground.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
GAVIN G. R. McEWAN,
18 Park Court, Dalmuir,
Clydebank, Dunbartonshire.

All at sea

From Mr John Bagley

Sir, I realise that coastal erosion is a constant cause for concern in East Anglia. But I was alarmed to read the reference to "Stowmarket on the Suffolk coast" (Valerie Grove interview, April 5).

Perhaps there was an exceptionally high tide when Michael Palin met his wife-to-be there some 30 years ago.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BAGLEY,
33 Hamilton Road,
Cockfosters, Hertfordshire.
April 5.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Casting light on the evolving eye

From Mr Aston Atkinson

Sir, Dr Richard Dawkins is quoted by Quentin Letts ("Faith, hope and the Darwin man", March 29; also letters, April 5) as suggesting that all living things owe their design not to God but to evolution. And he explains ("Can nature perform miracles?", April 2) how the eye could have evolved in less than half a million years.

What he failed to address was the question of how natural forces originated. How did photons of light come about, for example? He explains that photons played their part in the evolution of the eye in living creatures. Are we to assume that light acquired its wave-like nature by evolution of some kind?

There are untold numbers of other natural phenomena that beg explanation: the force of gravity, to single out just one. By what process could this mighty power which holds planets in their orbits have evolved, presumably from some primitive, earlier versions?

The answer to these questions about the origins of natural forces — the engines of evolution, as it were — could be amazingly simple: for instance, that they were created by God.

Yours truly,
ASTON ATKINSON,
8 Scarlett Road,
Castletown, Isle of Man.
April 2.

From Mr J. W. S. Armstrong

Sir, Richard Dawkins, seeking to demonstrate the "preposterous simplicity" with which an intricate organ might arise of its own accord, contradicts the commonly-held notion that an organism will only evolve characteristics which convey some advantage to the survival of its hereditary line.

In his account of how the eye might have evolved he envisages a bed of photocells gradually becoming convex to allow an organism more accurately to interpret from which direction light was coming. However, he then implies that a comparatively useless concave bed of photocells might have evolved and then lain dormant awaiting the emergence of a lens to provide it with a purpose.

Bearing in mind that this would require thousands of years it would appear that evolution must have had some idea of where it was going. This is called teleology and is anathema to natural selection, which has always been regarded as a blind process. It suggests design, and here we have a rich irony: Richard Dawkins, the high priest of atheism, presenting an argument for the existence of God.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. S. ARMSTRONG,
Old Tyles, Camp Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
April 3.

From Mr R. P. W. Bell

Sir, Presumably in his successful attempt at creating computer-generated patterns of spiders' webs and snail shells Richard Dawkins both switched the computer on and, with the assistance of his computer-scientist friend, programmed it to function.

If he had shown that over a period of 400 million years his computer could have done the same comparatively simple task whilst turned off and without programming then his arguments would be more compelling.

That man has discovered the tools by which he was created does little to disprove the existence of a Creator.

Yours etc,
R. P. W. BELL,
2 Grove Road,
Haylands, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
April 2.

Ups and downs

From Professor R. M. Hardisty

Sir, Mr Vaughan-Davies's club porter (letter, April 5) was not being illogical in stating that "most gentlemen give more" than average; he merely wished to imply that those who gave less were not gentlemen.

Yours faithfully,
R. M. HARDISTY,
4 Ruskin Close, NW11.
April 5.

From Mr Frank Nunneley

Sir, Speaking as an average man (and I *have* been on the Clapham omnibus) I thought it worth pointing out that I have more than the average number of legs.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK NUNNELEY,
Fairfield, Horseshoe Lane,
Beckley, East Sussex.
April 9.

Easter parade

From Mr Laurence Davies

Sir, Barry Shooter (letter, April 10) expresses bafflement at the presence of street cleaners and traffic wardens on Easter Day. As both the London boroughs of Havering and Redbridge are controlled by a minority "new Labour" administration maybe we should ask Tony Blair about the sanctity of Christian holidays (leading article, April 8; letters, April 10)?

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE DAVIES,
36 Wingate Road, Ilford, Essex.
April 10.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 10: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh gave a Dinner Party at which Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon were present.

The following were invited: the Prime Minister and Mrs Major, His Excellency the High Commissioner for Canada, the Right Reverend Michael Marshall, Sir Ron Dearing, Mr and Mrs Bamber Gascoigne, Mr and Mrs John Lewis, Mr and Mrs Martyn Lewis, Mr and Mrs David Peake, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Johnston, and Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs William Rollo.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 10: The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening held a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 10: The Princess of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires), received Lieutenant-General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith (Colonel of the Regiment).

Her Royal Highness received Captain Richard Walch (Regimental representative at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst) and Officer Cadets being commissioned into the regiment.

YORK HOUSE
April 10: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, the United Kingdom Committee of UNICEF, attended the annual meeting of the Board of UNICEF, United Nations Building, UN Plaza, New York, United States of America.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess of Wales will attend a piano recital at the Festival Hall at 7.20 in aid of *The Voices Foundation*.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Northern Lighthouse Board, will visit Ailsa Craig Lighthouse, Campbeltown, Kintyre at 2.00.

Princess Alexandra will visit the Floyd Unit, Birch Hill Hospital, Rochdale, Greater Manchester, at 2.05; as Patron of the Anchor Housing Association, will open the Pendleton Croft retirement housing scheme at Hind Hill Street, Heywood, at 3.05; and will visit Vine House, the Cancer Help, Advice and Information Day Centre, Ribbleton, Preston, at 4.35.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the Buckingham swimming pool and leisure centre, London Road, Buckingham, at 2.30.

Simon Dyer CBE

A Memorial Requiem Mass for Simon Dyer CBE, Director General of the AA, will be celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, at The Brompton Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7, on Monday, May 13 at 11.30am.

Those wishing to attend should write to Mary Maddocks, AA, Norfolk House, Priestley Road, Basingstoke RG24 9NY, by April 22, 1996. Tickets will be issued.

Geoffrey Foxcroft

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Geoffrey Foxcroft will be held in Rugby School Chapel on Saturday, April 20, at 2.15pm.

Appointment

Mr Robert Franklyn Nelson, QC, to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

Birthdays today

Miss Janet Allen, former Headmistress, Benenden School, 60; Viscount Buckmaster, 75; Mr Joseph Burnett-Stuart, former chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings, 66; Sir Raymond Carr, former Warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, 77; Mr Gervase de Peyer, clarinettist, 70; Sir Oscar De Ville, former chairman, Meyer International, 71; Mr Clive Exton, scriptwriter and playwright, 66; Mr James Alan Ferman, secretary, British Board of Film Classification, 66; Mr Ronald Fraser, actor, 66; Mr Michael Hindley, MEP, 49; Dr R.J.B. Knight, deputy director, National Maritime Museum, 52; Dame Anne Poole, former chief nursing officer, Department of Health, 62; the Earl of Sandwich, 53; Mr Richard Wainwright, former MP, 78; Professor Michael Wright, chairman, 600 Group, 49.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: George Canning, Prime Minister 1827, London, 1770; Sir Charles Hallé, pianist, conductor and founder of the Hallé orchestra, Hagen, Germany, 1819.

DEATHS: Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, Prince of Wales, Aberconway, 1240; Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger, poet and conspirator, executed, London, 1554; Sir Gerald du Maurier, actor-manager, London, 1934; Sir Archibald McIndoe, plastic surgeon, London, 1960; Josephine Baker, singer, Paris, 1975; Enver Hoxha, Albanian leader 1944-85, Albania, 1985.

Dinner

Chief Constables' Club
Lord Armstrong of Ilminster was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Chief Constables' Club held last night at Guildhall. Mr David Shattock, Chief Constable of Avon and Somerset, presided.

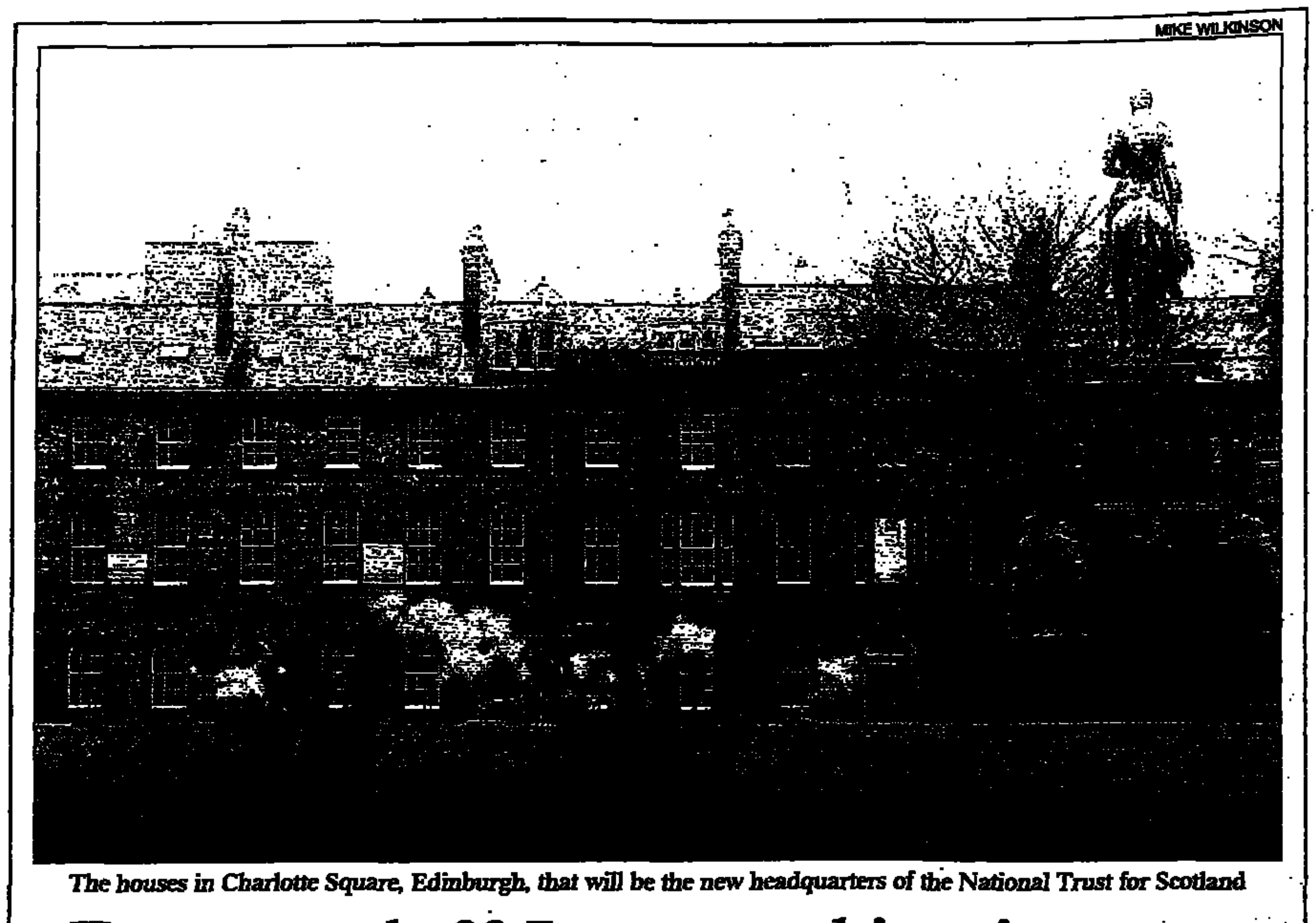
Memorial service

Mr Michael J. Naylor
A memorial service for Mr Michael J. Naylor, Founder and Managing Director of Endsleigh Insurance Services, was held yesterday in Tewkesbury Abbey. The Rev Michael Tavinor officiated and with Mr Michael Alcock, Managing Director of Endsleigh, welcomed the congregation.

Drs Ad Bouwmeester, Chairman of Endsleigh and Managing Director of Gouda Insurance Company, and Mr Arthur Poulos read the lessons. Mr Mark Naylor, nephew, read Edward Lear's *The Owl and the Pussy-Cat* and Mr David Gilles read a piece by Juliet Chipchase. Mr Bill Davidson, Company Secretary of Endsleigh, Mr Len Warwick, Mr Jon Callard, Member of England Rugby Team, and Mr Jim Murphy, President of the National Union of Students and a Director of Endsleigh, gave addresses. Among others present were:

Members of the family, Mr Gordon McKeag (chairman, Football League), Mr Frank Teasdale (chairman, Burnley Football Club), a representative of the Professional Footballers' Association, chairmen, chief executives and managing directors of the insurance industry and many other friends and colleagues.

MIKE WILKINSON



The houses in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, that will be the new headquarters of the National Trust for Scotland

Trust spends £3.7m to save historic square

By John Young

THE National Trust for Scotland has taken the first steps towards the restoration of the world famous Charlotte Square in Edinburgh. With the aid of £3.7 million from the Heritage Lottery *Fund and £700,000 from Historic Scot*land it has purchased numbers 26-31 which will become its headquarters, with public exhibition and gallery space.

The square was designed by Robert Adam in 1792, the year he died, and is considered to be his finest civic monument in Scotland and a masterpiece of urban planning and design. The trust already owns three buildings on the north side of the square, one of which, known as the Georgian house, is a popular tourist magnet while the next door house is the official residence of the Secretary of State for Scotland.

However, since the 1960s the square has been in decline and about one third of the buildings are empty. Several firms for whom it had been a prestige address have been persuaded to move to modern open-plan office buildings.

Many bodies have expressed concern about the future of the square, and the trust believes that, without action to halt and reverse the decline, its survival is threatened. It hopes to encourage other organisations, including commercial firms, to follow its example. It also hopes to persuade the Charlotte Square Proprietors' Association to consider restoring *the original layout and reinstating* railings and pavements. If funds permit, the facade of the south side of the square will also be returned to its original condition and will include statues of sphinxes and other creatures which were part of Adam's original design but never incorporated.

Latest wills

Betty **Puddifoot**, of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, left estate valued at £606,994 net.

She left £125,000 and her home and contents to personal legatees, £50,000 each to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and RSPCA, £15,000 each to the PDSA, Multiple Sclerosis Society and Parkinson's Disease Society, £10,000 each to Voluntary Service Overseas and Intermediate Technology Development Group, £5,000 each to the Blue Cross, and the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital Northwood, and the residue to Oxfam.

Other estates include, net before tax:

Mrs Angela Everard **Gilbey**, of London W8 .... £673,906

Vilma **Goglia**, of Redhill, Surrey .... £817,782.

Mrs Phyllis Mary **Goodman**, of Sandwich, Kent .... £721,928.

Mr Michael Evelyn Wallace Scott **MacKirdy**, of Sherbourne, Dorset £580,281.

Phyllis Flora **Mocatta**, of Eastbourne, East Sussex .... £962,649.

Mr Edwin Gordon **Ottewell**, of Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire .... £669,421.

Mrs Elizabeth Margaret **Pinchin**, of Wadhurst, East Sussex £839,944.

Mrs Barbara **Royle**, of Ottery St Mary, Devon .... £964,067.

Mrs Elizabeth Marjorie **Savage**, of Hersham, Surrey .... £1,111,261.

Mr Nigel John **Sellers**, of Shipton by Beningbrough, North Yorkshire .... £1,224,533.

Elizabeth Jane **Sweet**, of Truro, Cornwall .... £946,169.

Mr Thomas Frederick **Biddick** of St Austell, Cornwall .... £635,737.

Miss Hilda Alicia Joan **Collyer**, of Cookley, Worcestershire £668,443.

Florence Sarah **Edwards**, of Bournemouth, Dorset .... £689,292.

Mrs Jill **Hardbattle**, of Stoughton, Leicestershire .... £1,931,206.

Mrs Edith Olive **Kenney**, of Ormskirk, Lancashire .... £623,946.

Mr Robert Edward **Keyte**, of Ebrington, Gloucestershire £705,562.

Mr Harold Sidney **Marshall**, of Stowmarket, Suffolk .... £978,126.

Mr John Nielson **Gifford-Mead**, of Betchworth, Surrey .. £1,575,484.

University news

King's College London

Recent research grants include:

School of Education
Mrs S Rouve, 434,185 Ecu (European Training Foundation (TEMPUS PHARE)) to support a research project entitled *Inter-university foreign language training network*.
Dr M Maguire, Ms C L Jones, £25,000 (ESRC) to support a research project entitled *An investigation into the school experience of ethnic minority student teachers*.

School of Humanities
English
Professor J A Roberts, £146,102 (British Academy) to support a research project entitled *Middle English word studies*.
War Studies (includes Centre for Defence Studies)
Professor M Clarke (CDS), Professor L Freedman, 75,030 Ecu (European Community (PHARE Democracy Programme)) to support a research project entitled *Security and democracy in the new Europe II*.

School of Law
Centre of Medical Law and Ethics
Professor A Grubb, £104,562 (South Thames Regional Health Authority) to support a research project entitled *To evaluate models of ethics committee approval of multi-centre research projects*.

School of Life, Basic Medical and Health Sciences
Life Sciences Division
Dr H Davies, £117,309 (MRC) to support a research project entitled *Analysis of T lymphocyte responses during evolution of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia*.
Professor R K Poole, £182,676 (BBSRC) to support a research project entitled *Regulation of respiratory metabolism in the free-living nitrogen-fixing bacterium azotobacter vinelandii*.
Professor D O Hall, 6,000 Ecu (INTAS) to support a research project entitled *Biotechnology of hydrogen energy production in photobioreactors incorporating photosynthetic micro-organisms*.
Professor R K Poole, £164,136 (BBSRC) to support a research project entitled *The flavhaemoglobin (HMP) of escherichia coli and its role in responses to oxidative stress and nitrogen compounds*.
Biomedical Sciences Division
Anatomy and Human Biology Group (includes Developmental Biology Research Centre)
Dr K T O'Byrne, Dr S R Milligan (Physiology Group), Dr C W Coen, £164,356 (MRC) to support a research project entitled *Environmental oestrogens and the central pulse generator controlling reproduction: a novel approach to a critical issue*.
Dr L C Mahadevan (DBRC), £136,204 (BBSRC) to support a research project entitled *The role of mitogen-stimulated HMG-14 phosphorylation in immediate-early gene induction*.
Dr S L Dickson, £51,229 (MRC) to support a research project entitled *Neural mechanisms regulating the secretion of growth hormones*.
Molecular Biology and Biophysics Group
Dr M Irving, £165,315 (MRC) to support a research project entitled *The molecular mechanism of force generation in muscle: time-resolved x-ray diffraction*.
Professor R M Simmons, Dr G E Jones, 97,622 Ecu (European Commission (HCM Programme)) to support a research project entitled *Muscle and cell motility: fundamental mechanisms*.
Professor R M Simmons, Dr D A Smith, £111,772 (Wellcome Trust) to support a research project entitled *A stochastic model for the generation of force and displacement by isolated muscle motor proteins*.
Pharmacology Group
Dr M J Curtis, £54,511 (British Heart Foundation) to support a research studentship entitled *Platelet activating factor (PAF), platelets and myocardial ischaemia: role of independent versus platelet-dependent actions of PAF to elicit cardiac arrhythmia's contractile and coronary vascular dysfunction*.
Physiology Group (includes Vascular Biology Research Centre)
Dr G E Mann (VBRC), £97,506 (British Heart Foundation) to support a research project entitled *Modulation of nitric oxide and carbon monoxide signalling pathways by oxidatively modified LDL in vascular endothelial and smooth muscle cells*.
Dr G E Mann (VBRC), £80,000 (Tommy's Campaign) to support a research project entitled *Regulation of the L-arginine-nitric oxide signalling pathway in human cultured myometrial smooth muscle cells*.
Nursing and Midwifery Division
Dr S Cowley, £48,990 (Department of Health (Anglia and Oxford RHA)) Research studentship.
Nutrition and Dietetics
Professor T A B Sanders, £19,800 (Meat and Livestock Commission) to support a research project entitled *Iron status, cognitive function and physical fitness in UK adolescent girls: an intervention trial*.

School of Medicine and Dentistry
Child Health
Dr C Buchanan, £24,685 (Joint Research Committee) to support a research studentship entitled *Growth factors and impaired growth*.
General Practice and Primary Care
Dr P White, £64,824 (Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham Health Commission) to support a research project entitled *Severe asthma interface development project*.
Haematological Medicine
Dr G J Mufti, Professor A J Bellingham, £62,967 (Leukaemia Research Fund) Clinical Training Fellowship.
Medicine
Dr M R Christie, Dr E C I Hatfield (Fellow), £120,316 (Wellcome Trust) to support a research training fellowship entitled *Study of antibody recognition of the protein tyrosine phosphatase IA-2: a novel autoantigen in insulin dependent diabetes mellitus*.
Dr P M W Bath, Dr F J Bath, £50,966 (South Thames Regional Health Authority) to support a research project entitled *Systematic review of blood pressure management in acute stroke*.

School of Physical Sciences and Engineering
Electronic and Electrical Engineering
Professor A C Davies, 298,175 Ecu (European Training Foundation (TEMPUS PHARE)) to support a research project entitled *Education in signal processing and circuits for signal processing*.
Physics
Dr A G Michette, Dr C J Buckley, £163,743 (EPSRC) to support a research project entitled *A laboratory scanning X-ray microscope*.
Dr A G Michette, £268,232 (BBSRC) to support a research project entitled *The irradiation of sub-cellular targets using an ultrasoft X-ray microprobe*.

Grand total amount awarded in the quarter £5,780,792; grand total of awards in the quarter 132.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.W.J. Currie
and Miss E.J. Bullough
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Dr and Mrs William Currie, of Mountainside, New Jersey, and Elizabeth, younger daughter of Professor Donald Bullough, of Auckland, New Zealand, and Mrs Belinda Bullough, of Watlington, Oxford.

Mr B.J.K. Dimitroff
and Miss M.M. Lambton
The engagement is announced between Brian, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Pashanko Dimitroff, of Mijas, Spain, and Monica, granddaughter of the late D'Arcy Lambton and the Honourable Mrs Lambton, of Shottisham, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Hon R.T.A. Goff
and Miss C.L. Cregeen
The engagement is announced between Thomas, only son of Lord and Lady Goff of Chieveley, and Catherine, only daughter of Mr Peter Cregeen, of Greatham, Hampshire, and Mrs Jennifer Cregeen, of Frensham, Surrey.

Mr E.B. Hine
and Miss S.K. Brighton
The engagement is announced between Edward Burgass, second son of the late Dr Denys Hine and of Mrs Denys Hine, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, and Sandra Kristina, eldest daughter of the late Mr Bryan Brighton and of Mrs Marion Brighton, of Washingborough, Lincoln.

Mr J.R. Martin
and Miss L.K. Stanier
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of the late Mr John Martin and of Mrs John Simpson, of Exeter, Devon, and Lucinda, younger daughter of Sir Beville Stanier Bt, and Lady Stanier, of Whaddon, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.J.P. Micklethwait
and Mlle L.I. Raillard
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Micklethwait, of Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire, and Laurence, daughter of Dr Raillard, of Seignosse, Landes, and Mme de Csabay, of Paris.

Dr J.E. Sale
and Dr C.J. Patient
The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs George Sale, of Meols, Wirral, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stafford Patient, of Ipswich, Suffolk.

Mr I.G. Shaw
and Miss P.M. Stephenson
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of Mr G.P. Shaw, of Read, Lancashire, and Mrs V.M. Shaw, of Brierfield, Lancashire, and Penelope (Pepe) daughter of Mr and Mrs C.J. Stephenson, of Mere, Wiltshire.

Mr B.J.M. Wood
and Miss S.J. Tarver
Colonel and Mrs Charles Tarver, of Winterbourne Earls, Salisbury, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Sarah Jane to Benjamin, son of Mr and Mrs Jon Wood, of Belvoir Lodge, Leicestershire.

Marriages

Mr B.C.F. Nicholson
and Miss K. Sakamoto
The marriage took place in Kyoto, Japan, on Saturday, April 6, 1996, between Mr Ben Nicholson, son of Mr T.R. Nicholson, of London, and of Mrs S.J. Nicholson, of Bristol, and Miss Kaori Sakamoto, daughter of Mrs S. Sakamoto, of Osaka, Japan. This will be followed by a service of blessing in Bristol in June.

Mr D. Supple
and Miss V. Webber
The marriage took place on Tuesday April 2, in Chelsea, of Danton, son of Mr Bill Supple and Mrs Fran Barnes, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Laurence Webber.

Mr A.L. van Praag
and Miss M.J. Allan
The marriage took place on April 2, in London of Mr Lucas van Praag, son of the late Mr Louis van Praag and of Mrs Angela van Praag, to Miss Miranda Allan, daughter of the late Mr Richard Allan and of Mrs Roderick Sargeantson.

Church news

Appointments

Canon Mervyn Banting, Vicar, St Cuthbert, Copnor (Portsmouth): is to be Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight, same diocese.

The Rev Dr Roderick Allon-Smith, Vicar, St John-the-Baptist, Westwood, and Area Dean of Coventry South (Coventry): to be Parish Development Adviser in the diocese of Coventry and Priest-in-charge, Radford Semele and Ufton, same diocese.

The Rev Richard Arding, Curate, St Augustine, Bromley Common: to be Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Wilmington (Rochester).

The Rev Paul Bagshaw, Assistant Curate, St Mary Magdalene, Newark, Newark Team Ministry: to be Priest-in-charge, All Hallows, Ordsall and St Alban's, Retford (Southwell).

The Rev Terence Baillie, Vicar, Bedminster (Bristol): to be Vicar, Clevedon St Andrew and Clevedon Christ Church (Bath and Wells).

The Rev George Baisley, Rector, Berkswell: to be *also* Rural Dean of Kenilworth (Coventry).

The Rev Gill Barker, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Matthew, Bridgemary: to be Chaplain's Assistant (full-time), Portsmouth Hospitals Chaplaincy Team (Portsmouth).

The Rev John Barrie, Priest-in-charge, Holy Trinity, Hereford (Hereford): to be Vicar, St Mark, Hamilton Terrace (London).

The Rev James Blandford-Baker, Curate, Christ Church, Quinton (Birmingham): to be Vicar, St Dunstan w St Thomas, East Acton (London).

The Rev Victor Cassam, Rector, Selsey: now *also* Rural Dean of Chichester (Chichester).

The Rev Barbara Chambers, Assistant Curate, Blurton, Stoke-on-Trent (Lichfield): to be Chaplain's Assistant at The Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust (Southwell).

The Rev Brian Cook, Rector, St Mary, Liss (Portsmouth): to be *also* an Honorary Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral.

The Rev Trevor Cooper, Curate (NSM), Heavitree (Exeter): to be Curate (stipendiary), St Wilfrid, Standish (Blackburn).

The Rev Howard Cunnington, Assistant Curate, St Leonard w Holy Trinity, Exeter (Exeter): to be Vicar, St John, Sandown and Christ Church, Sandown, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth).

The Rev Andrew Dawswell, Curate, All Saints, Childwall (Liverpool): to be Curate, St Andrew, Leyland (Blackburn).

The Rev Graham Dodds, Rector, Bath Walcot: to be Lay Training Adviser and Director of Reader Studies (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Roderick Doulton, Assistant Curate, Hoddesdon: to be Priest-in-charge, Caldecote, in plurality with Old Warden (St Albans).

The Rev Richard Edwards, Rector, North Pine Anglican Parish (Brisbane, Australia): to be Rector, Kingston St Mary w Broomfield and Cheddon Fitzpaine (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Trevor Farmiloe, Vicar, Martock w Ash and Rural Dean of Ivelchester: to be *also* a Prebendary of Wells Cathedral (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Anthony Fowler, Assistant Curate, Walton St Mary, Felixstowe: to be Priest-in-charge, Combs (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

Canon John Fuller, Principal, Southern Dioceses Ministry Training Scheme, and Canon and Prebendary of Salisbury Cathedral (Salisbury): to be Vicar, Wheatley, and Team Rector designate of Wheatley Team Ministry (Oxford).

The Rev David Gamble, Chaplain, HM Prison, Latchmere House (Southwark): to be Priest-in-charge, St George, Portsea (Portsmouth).

PERSONAL

But I shall watch for the Lord, I shall wait for God my saviour; my God will hear me.
Micah 7 : 7 (REB)

BIRTHS

ADENEY - On March 31st 1996, to Ben and Sara (née Rabin), a daughter, Hannah Louise.

AINSLIE - On 6th April, to Catherine (née Green) and David, a son, Jonathan David Alexander.

AL-ZOUMAN - On April 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Bassima Al-Qatami and Anwar Al-Zouman from Kuwait, a beautiful daughter, Fay.

BADMAN - On 25th March, to Zoë (née Topliss) and Nicholas, the gift of a daughter, Katherine Verity, a sister for James.

BENNETT - On 9th April 1996, to Helen (née Firth) and Alexander, a daughter, Sophie Alexandra Helen, a sister for Emily.

BISSET - On 4th April 1996, to Virginia and Niel, a daughter, Isabella, a sister for Oliver and Billy.

BLOWER - On April 10th in Singapore, to Jacqui (née Khoo) and Charles, a son, Matthew Liam Paske.

CHAFFER - On April 10th, to Belinda (née Peal) and Jason, a daughter, Emily Mary, a sister for George.

CHALK - On March 29th 1996, to Laura (née Hornung) and Philip, a son, Oscar John, a brother for Freddie and Pippa.

GORDON CLARK - On 4th April to Carmen (née Cabrera) and John, a daughter.

HASELDINE - On 7th April 1996, to Mariana and Richard, a beautiful daughter, Elizaveta Maria.

HIGGINS - On 4th April, at The Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Mandy and Neil, a beautiful daughter, Holly Imelda Beatrice, 8lbs 6½oz.

HOARE - On 5th April 1996, to Joanne (née Bayliss) and Christopher, a son, James Christopher.

MACPHERSON - On April 9th, to Jane (née Purvis) and Campbell, a daughter, Emily Catherine.

PIM - On March 26th, to Karen (née McHenry) and Alistair, twins, a boy, Frederic Guy and a girl, Holly Fiona.

RHYS-EVANS - On 5th April 1996 Good Friday at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Fran and Peter, a wonderful daughter, Olivia Frances.

RIVETT-CARNAC - On Good Friday April 5th, to Sarah (née Petrie) and Simon, a son, Tom Alexander Miles.

ROBBINS - On 4th April 1996 at Pembury Hospital, to Sally (née Hedley-Jones) and Simon, a son, Jasper George.

SCHOFIELD - On Easter Sunday April 7th 1996, to Susannah (née Tucker) and the late John Schofield, a daughter, Charlotte Katharine Lucy.

SWAFFIELD - On April 3rd 1996, to Steve and Mary (née Huckle), a baby girl Emma Jane, 3rd grandchild for Marg and Jay Huckle Q.C. of Toronto, Canada and 8th grandchild for Sir James and Lady Swaffield of Beckenham, Kent.

TAYLOR - On April 5th, to Sarah (née Barratt) and Paul, a daughter, Lucy Eleanor, a sister to George and Alice.

TURIM - On April 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Mark and Chris, a son, Tyler, brother to Danielle and Alexis.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

ALDRED:READ-CARTER - On April 11th 1936 at St Mary's Church, Davyhulme, Thomas William Aldred and Dorothy Read-Carter. Loving parents of Elizabeth and Rosemary. Grandparents of Madeline and Henry, Patrick and William. Great-grandparents of Anastasia and Conor.

DEATHS

ADAMS - Donald on April 8th aged 67 years, suddenly and peacefully at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Much loved husband of the late Muriel and very dear father of Josephine, father-in-law of Martin and grandfather of Emily and Hannah. He will be sorely missed by his family and the world of Opera the great loves of his life. Funeral private, family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Sheringham Lifeboat Appeal.

AYLIFF - Jean on April 8th 1996 peacefully at Charing Cross Hospital. Funeral at Mortlake Crematorium on Monday April 15th at 3 pm.

BUFFEY - Leonard Mills M.C. T.D. Lt-Col (ret'd). "Stingo". On 6th April aged 92 peacefully after a short illness. Dearly loved and devoted husband of the late Mary, dearest "Pa" of Sue and son-in-law Michael and affectionate grandpa of Peter and Stephen. Service at St Mary the Virgin, Hayes, Kent, on Friday 19th April at 2 pm followed by private cremation. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Hayes (Kent) P.C.C. c/o J & R Killick, 112 High Street, West Wickham, Kent. (0181) 777-4502.

CARRICK - Lucy Vera on April 4th peacefully at Grosvenor Park Nursing Home, dearly loved aunt of Alison and devoted friend of the late Winifred Wilson. Enquiries to Mummery F/D tel: (01424) 730418.

CATTERSON-SMITH - Isabel peacefully on Easter Saturday aged 105. Artist, Embroiderer and devoted daughter of the late Robert Catterson-Smith. Funeral Service at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, on Monday April 22nd at 12 noon. Flowers, or donations to R.S.P.B. c/o A & E Longhurst, 21-23 Kingston Road, Ewell, Surrey, tel: (0181) 393-1077.

CHENEVIX TRENCH - On Good Friday 1996 peacefully in the loving care of Burcot Grange N.H., Bromsgrove, Theano aged 90, wife of the late Eric and a much loved sister, sister-in-law, aunt and great-aunt. Funeral at Redditch Crematorium on Wednesday April 17th at 12.30 pm. Flowers or donations if preferred to R.N.I.B. c/o G. Crump Funeral Director, 33 Hanbury Road, Droitwich, Worcs, WR9 8PW, tel: (01905) 773339.

CLAPTON - Doris Eileen of Bournemouth formerly of Hampstead peacefully on March 3rd, 1996, aged 83, much loved by family and friends. Doris left her body for medical research. Service of thanksgiving for her life at the Church of the Transfiguration Canford Cliffs Poole on Tuesday May 7th at 2 pm. Donations in her memory to the Church of the Transfiguration c/o the Treasurer 2 Firs Lane Poole Dorset BH14 8JG. Enquiries: 01647-252741.

CLOUGH - Gordon, Writer and Broadcaster, peacefully at home on April 6th, aged 61. Much loved husband of Carolyn, father of Jonathan, Penny, Elizabeth and Eleanor, son of Annie, brother of Peter, grandfather and colleague. Funeral at St Mary Magdalene, Trinity Road, Wandsworth Common, London, SW17 on Tuesday April 16th at 2 pm. Flowers to Mears & Cotterill (0181) 874 7698, or donations c/o Dr Robert Wilson, National Heart and Lung Institute, Dovehouse Street, London SW3 6NP.

DAVIES - Frances Barbara (née Walker) died peacefully on 18th March 1996 in Perth W. Australia aged 84. Much loved mother of Hugh, John and Sally. A family funeral has taken place.

EVANS - On 8th April 1996, Daphne of Higher Golsoncott, formerly of Woodcombe, Minehead, Somerset. A dearly loved sister and aunt. Funeral Service at Taunton Deane Crematorium on Friday 19th April at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Renal Unit, Wonford Hospital, Exeter c/o Murrell & Dewar, Irnham Road, Minehead, Somerset.

FORD - Marjorie Florence (Peggy) on April 6th 1996 aged 90 years. Cremation at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon, on Friday 12th April 1.30 pm. No flowers.

HADIDA - On 29th March 1996 suddenly at her home Samaria Jacqueline Mary Hadida in her 50th year. Funeral Service at Sonning Parish Church at 12.30 pm Monday April 15th. "Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavily laden and I will give you rest". St Matthew 11 verse 28.

HEAD - On 6th April at Burrswood Nursing Home, Groombridge. Muriel Elizabeth (Betty). Beloved sister of the late Rev A.H. Head and of Mollie Mowll and loved aunt and great-aunt to all their families. Funeral Service at Burrswood Chapel on Tuesday 16th April at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Any donations to Church Missionary Society c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1SD tel: (01892) 522462.

HOCKING - On April 3rd 1996, at Duchy Hospital, Truro, Cornwall, Kathleen (Kay) also her loving husband on April 4th 1996, at Treliske Hospital, Truro, Dr. F.D.M. Hocking. Funeral service private. Memorial Service to be announced at a later date. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu if desired for P.D.S.A., St Francis Home for Sick Animals, Cinnamon Trust or World Wildlife c/o Lloyds Bank, The Parade, Liskeard, Cornwall.

HULSE - Westrow 9th Baronet on April 10th, peacefully in hospital. Private funeral. No flowers. Memorial Service to be announced.

HUMPHREYS - Lt. Cdr. David Oliver, D.S.C., F.R.I.C.S., on 8th April, beloved husband of the late Josephine and father of Jennifer and Helen. Funeral at 2 pm on Monday, 22nd April at Hartley Mauditt Church, Alton. Flowers or donations to Hartley Church Bell Fund to Charles Read, Turk Street, Alton.

LE HUNTE-WARD - Mary Flora (Flora) on April 9th, after a long fight against ill health, passed peacefully away at Redmount Nursing Home, Buckfastleigh, beloved wife of the late Edward (deceased) and loving mother of Antonia, Fynvola and Carmel, mother-in-law of Daryl and Carlo, much loved grandmother of André, Dominic, Ivan, Matteo, Nina and Christopher. Funeral at St Petrocks R.C. Church Ashburton, on Tuesday April 16th at 2.30 pm. followed by interment at St Mary's Buckfast. Enquiries and flowers to F. Christophers and Son, Ashburton, tel: (01364) 654066.

MacDERMOT - Major Miles MacDermot M.C. on 8th April 1996 very peacefully, beloved husband of Mary and father of Terry, Grania, Geoff and Tim. Service 17th April 2 pm All Saints Church, Oval Way, Gerrards Cross. No flowers by request. Donations to British Legion.

MacDONALD - Ivorine (MBE) on 6th April 1996 after a long illness fought with grace and dignity. A wonderful mother and loyal friend, she will be deeply missed by all who knew her, especially her children and her adored granddaughter Ella. Her memory will be treasured always. Funeral to be held at Ballards Lane Methodist Church, Finchley N3 on Tuesday, April 16th at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Edenhall Marie Curie Centre, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, London, NW3.

MacINERNEY - On April 7th 1996, Joy daughter of the late Joseph and Nora MacInerney and much loved cousin of Joan. Family flowers only. Donations to British Heart Foundation if desired. All enquiries to J.H. Kenyon, (0171) 937 0757.

MERCER - John Herbert aged 72 on 8th April. Thanksgiving Service at Reigate Park Church, 11.30am Saturday 20th April. No flowers. Donations to Harestone Marie Curie Centre c/o Stoneman's Funeral Service, Redhill.

MORTON - James Hird "Jim" (ex Royal Engineers 1939-46) aged 80 years, died peacefully at home on 4th April 1996. Beloved husband of the late May. Much loved by his family, admired and sadly missed by many friends. Funeral Service at South West Middlesex Crematorium Friday 19th April at 11.30 am. Flowers and enquiries to F.W. Paine, 31, Church Street, Twickenham, tel: (0181) 892-1784.

O'BRIEN - On 6th April 1996, peacefully, Joan wife of the late Dr Den O'Brien. Dear mother to Peter, sister to Addie, stepmother and sister-in-law. Funeral Service at The Surrey & Sussex Crematorium Monday 15th April at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations for The Friends of East Surrey Hospital may be sent c/o Stoneman Funeral Service, Doran Court, Redhill, RH1 6AZ.

PAWLE - Frederick Strachan on Saturday 6th April aged 97. Loving husband of the late Kay and member of the Stock Exchange. Service at Mortlake Crematorium on Monday 15th April at 3.30pm. Flowers to T.H. Sanders & Sons, 447 Upper Richmond Road West, East Sheen, London SW14.

PINE - On 26th March, suddenly, Corsican, aged 110, beloved friend, sorely missed.

PONTIUS - On Good Friday 5th April 1996 in her 81st year, Elizabeth Mary (née Donaldson). Beloved mother of Richard, Lou and Tim. Funeral to be held on Tuesday 16th April 1996. Enquiries to A. Yeatman & Sons, Tel: (0181) 670 1127. Donations in lieu of flowers to St Christopher's Hospice, 51-59 Lawrie Park Road, Sydenham, London SE26 6DZ.

PRONGER - Colin, died peacefully 6th April. Funeral at St Annes, Kew, 2.15 pm 17th April. Family flowers only. Donations to charity. Contact (0181) 744 1125.

RIGGS - On April 9th 1996 suddenly but peacefully at home, Olive Mary aged 87 years, wife of the late Tom Riggs and greatly loved mother of Pamela and Richard. A devoted grandmother of Lucy, Sarah, Dennis, Mark and James, and great-grandmother. Service of Thanksgiving at Aldeburgh Parish Church on Tuesday, April 16th at 3 pm. Family flowers only please.

RITCHIE - On April 9th, 1996, peacefully at The Kello Hospital in Biggar, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles William MacIver Ritchie, Late The Royal Scots, aged 84 years. Much loved husband of Iris, loving father of Charles and Alastair. Funeral at Mortonhall Crematorium, Edinburgh on 16th April at 3 pm. No flowers, but donations if desired to the Royal Scots Benevolent Society, The Castle, Edinburgh, EH1 2YT.

SCOTT CARMICHAEL - On Saturday April 6th in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Mary Veronica, aged 88 years, much loved sister of Rosemary, aunt and great-aunt. Funeral Service at the Cambridge City Crematorium on Monday April 15th at 4.15 pm. Family flowers only but donations if wished to Cherryhomes Trust c/o C.E. Fuller & Co., 25 Hall Street, Soham, Cambs. CB7 5BN.

SMALLHORN - Pamela. Peacefully on Easter Sunday at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital, five days after her eighty fifth birthday, beloved mother of Christopher, Anthony, Lesley and Ralph, and grandmother to a family spread throughout the world. Funeral at St Mary's, Fownhope on Saturday April 13th at 2 pm. No flowers please, but donations for St Michael's Hospice, Hereford via Abbotsfield Funeral Services, Monkmoor Street, Hereford HR1 2DX. Interment will take place on Monday April 15th at noon at Billinghay, Lincolnshire.

TAYLOR - C.W.G. (Billy) peacefully in hospital on 10th April aged 87 years, husband of Judith and father of Charlotte and Simon. Family funeral but donations to The Stroke Association.

WATTERS - Teresa (née Newman) of Lee, London and Ballygarvey, Co. Westmeath, died 8th April 1996 after long illness. Loving mother and grandmother. Funeral 12th April 1996 at Our Lady of Lourdes, Lee at 10 am.

WEINGARTEN - Josef, concert pianist and sometime professor at the Birmingham Conservatoire and Trinity College of Music, died at Charing Cross Hospital on Easter Sunday 7th April 1996. A beloved husband of Lilian and father of Claire. No flowers by family request but donations to the Musicians Benevolent Fund.

WOLSEY - Norman, on 7th April 1996 peacefully after a short illness. Dearly loved husband of Valerie, father of Sara and Marcia, brother of Gordon. Funeral private.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CUNNINGHAM - Daniel John Chapman. A Memorial Service will be held at 12 noon on Saturday April 20th in the Chapel of University College, Oxford.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

CHAPPELL - Dominic Simon James, born 10th August 1969 kidnapped Cambodia 11th April 1994.

FONSECA - B.E.H. born 20th February 1910 died 11th April 1963. Teacher, writer, father, friend. With God.

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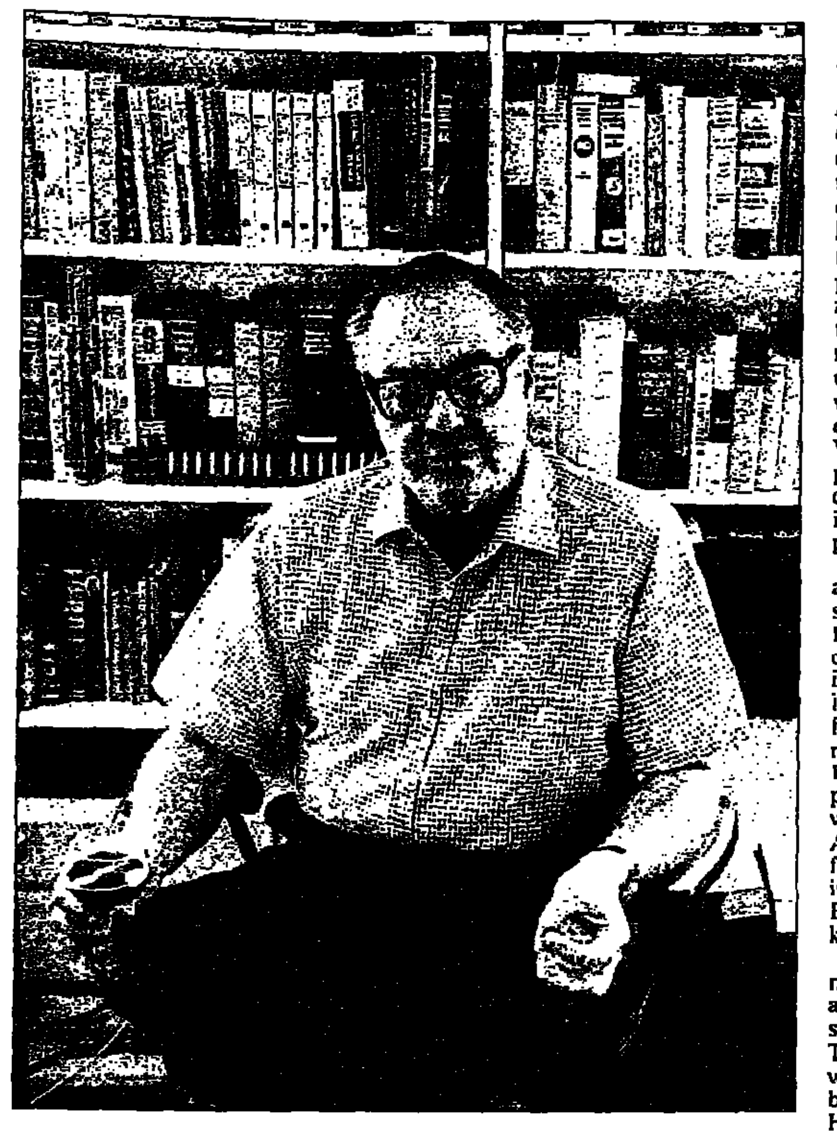
OBITUARIES

RICHARD CONDON

Richard Condon, American thriller writer, died in a Dallas hospital on April 9 aged 81. He was born in New York on January 14, 1915.



ALTHOUGH Richard Condon did not embark on a career as a writer until he was well into his forties, he established himself as a master of the thriller genre with only his second novel *The Manchurian Candidate*, published in 1959. Within a very few years of its appearance it was to gain added lustre for the uncanny sense of prescience it acquired from the terrible passage of events in the United States. Simply, its plot — a brainwashed zombie is programmed to kill a liberal politician — appeared to prefigure the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas in November 1963.

Indeed, so disturbing did this apparent foreknowledge seem, and such raw nerves did it touch in some quarters, that Frank Sinatra, who played a major role in the acclaimed 1962 film version of the book (Laurence Harvey was the pre-programmed assassin), exerted himself as a friend of the Kennedys to block the film's reissue. In America for some years thereafter it was difficult to find a copy on video and it did not re-emerge in the cinemas until 1987.

None of this did Condon any harm as a writer. For his admirers it imbued him with a sense of mysterious powers. He began to acquire a cult reputation. The only potential danger to his composure and common sense was that reviewers, not content with seeing him simply as a very good thriller-writer who did his research thoroughly and got his facts right, were increasingly inclined to detect in him a "polysyllabic, polymathic satirist" in whose novels were to be found "an amalgam of fantasy and pandectism". It was not long before comparisons with Kafka and Kerouac were being enlisted in the literary debate about Condon's qualities.

Fortunately, both the author and his readers kept their heads under this bombardment. "I'm here to entertain," said Condon and he went on to do so in other familiar titles such as *Winter Kills* (1974), *Death of a Politician* (1979) and *Prizzi's Honor* (1982).

Like those of many contemporary thriller writers, the outer life of Richard Thomas Condon was an uneventful enough affair — and he never pretended it was anything else. Although he had "done time" in Hollywood before becoming a writer, he had never inhabited any of the corridors of power or labyrinths of Mafia intrigue about which he wrote so convincingly. The authenticity was in the research, of which he was a master.

Born in New York, he attended one of its high schools, graduating anonymously "in a class of 4,000," as he later liked to say. After leaving school he joined the US mercantile marine and spent the next few years travelling the oceans of the world as a steward in a ship of the Dollar Line. When he returned to shore he joined an advertising agency. There he had his first creative task as a writer of slogans for the packaging of toothpaste tubes or bottles of mouthwash. This involved composing exhortations to the would-be buyer to be aware of plaque or halitosis — or both. "I did not like the advertising business," he was later to sum up this phase of his life.

Nevertheless Condon had done well enough to catch the eye of Walt Disney Productions who made him their publicity director for the eastern United States. Later, he was drawn to Hollywood and found himself doing publicity work for many of the big producers of the day: Samuel Goldwyn, Cecil B. de Mille and Darryl Zanuck. He did not much like this, either. It was stressful, gave him ulcers, yet did nothing for the creative side of his nature which was still lurking, waiting to get out. But he stuck it for nearly twenty years. Finally, while he was recuperating from his third duodenal ulcer, his wife suggested to him that he do something else.

In fact, he had, like many such wage slaves who live tantalisingly close to creativity without being able fully to assume the mantle themselves, been scribbling desultorily for the previous few years. He had written the lyrics for some children's record albums and in 1953 achieved some sort of breakthrough with a play, *Men of Distinction*, which had the grand total of four performances in New York in 1953. Nothing deterred, he resigned his job as a vice-president of RKO Radio Pictures (not very far ahead of the grim march of economic reality; RKO ceased production soon afterwards) and devoted himself single-mindedly to writing.

His first novel, *The Oldest Confession*, came out in 1958. Its story was that of a young man who, sickened by the acceptance of corruption in the business world, decides to earn an "honest" living as an art thief. America, still perhaps momentarily uncertain of the probity of its institutions in the wake of the McCarthy exposure, liked it, and Condon's latter-day Robin Hood won him considerable critical acclaim.

This reputation was sealed by *The Manchurian Candidate* and its success as both book and film emancipated Condon from further drudgery. Yet the rest of his writing life remained one of exemplary hard work. There can have been few more disciplined writers than he was. Amid a vast library of press cuttings, old newspapers, magazines, photographs, photocopied extracts, letters, cartoons, travel guides, maps and government papers, he employed all the electronic aids which were available to him from the 1950s onwards. He was using calculators, VDUs and floppy disks as aids to plotting when many similarly technically-minded authors were still drawing lines on graph paper with coloured pencils.

Condon's newly-found wealth enabled him to travel widely and he had, successively, homes in Paris, Madrid, Mexico City and Geneva, as well as one in the countryside of Co Kilkenny in Ireland, before returning to the US in 1980. He now produced a steady flow of novels, several of which were made into films. Among these was *Winter Kills* (1974) a reworking of the presidential assassination story, which was translated to the screen in 1979. Although it was admired as a novel, it failed to make much impact as a film, in spite of a cast which included Jeff Bridges, John Huston, Anthony Perkins and Elizabeth Taylor.

Prizzi's Honor, a Mafia comedy, was made into a film in 1985 with Condon and Janet Roach as screenwriters and starring Jack Nicholson and Kathleeen Turner. John Huston directed. Notwithstanding such talents before and behind the camera (and although Huston's daughter Anjelica won an Oscar for best supporting actress), the film tended to puzzle as much as to please. Perhaps a filmgoing audience brought up on the lush simplicities — adulteries, betrayals and bloodlettings — of the Francis Ford Coppola film versions of Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* could make little of its sour black comedy. Nevertheless Condon followed it with a number of sequels involving the Prizzi family, which were all well received, although, even for his most devoted fans, none really seemed to capture the subtlety and felicity of touch which had characterised *The Manchurian Candidate*.

Besides novel writing Condon was an enthusiast for wine and food — and one of considerable knowledge at that. As a "spare time" relaxation he liked writing about these subjects for magazines, and he was a chevalier of the Confrérie du Tastevin and a member of the Commandérie du Bontemps as well as being a chevalier of the Chaine des Rôtisseurs.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn, whom he married in 1938, and by two daughters, with one of whom he had written a cookbook.

JO PRIVAT

Jo Privat, accordionist, died on April 3 aged 76. He was born on April 15, 1919.

JO PRIVAT was a true son of an East End of Paris that has disappeared in part architecturally and almost entirely in spirit. He was born in the heart of the working class district, set on the hillside of Menilmontant, famous also as the place where Maurice Chevalier and Edith Piaf grew up. It was a *quartier* of artisans and street singers, dance halls and small bars where people played cards and swilled down their saucisson with copious red wine. Dancing at the local *bal musette* — the word *musette* came from the bag containing tools, loaf and wine, that workers carried earlier this century — was a normal pastime for people of all ages. Playing at these dances, Privat helped to make the sound of the accordion a quintessential part of this bygone Paris.

He was given his first accordion at the age of seven by his aunt who ran what was known as a *maison de tolérance* — more bluntly a brothel — in the rundown Marais district near by. As his fame grew, he became a travelling star across France and, later, the Far East. But he lived and played virtually the whole of his life in the eastern part of the city where he headed the bill for more than fifty years at the famous Balajo dance hall in the Rue de la Lappe.

This still stands, a stone's throw from the new Opera House at the Bastille, in an area now crowded with designer clothes shops, smart restaurants and multiplex cinemas. But before the Second World War it was very different. By day, the narrow streets were bustling with tradesmen shouting in *argot*. By night they swarmed with petty criminals, pimps, street girls and apprehensive bourgeois seeking titillation.

Privat played on the stage of the small, dark Balajo dance hall, with guitarists as back-up. There were no brass instruments and the dance was usually a lively fast waltz — men clasping their partners firmly by the hips — or the French java. Privat with his smooth style, the opposite of the sharper rhythm of Yvette Horner, his female rival, became known as *le roi Parisien du piano à bretelles* — piano with braces being the popular description of the accordion.

An early influence was the gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt, who, at the time, was playing at the main Paris flea market at the Porte de Clignancourt. Reinhardt had invented a new, lighter sound than that of the banjo. Privat followed his example, discarding the staccato style of the older musette accordionists, veering to *legato* and mixing Italian melodies, sounds from Eastern Europe and a touch of jazz.

Another star of the epoch, Verchuren, continued to be accompanied by saxophones and trumpets and used polkas and marches for his inspiration, but Privat with his more tender nuances won the public's favour. Not that he ever forgot the tempo for he was known as someone to whom one could dance all night.

He first played at the Balajo in 1936 after winning the international accordion competition at the Moulin de la Galette cabaret in Montmartre, one-time haunt of Van Gogh and Toulouse Lautrec. He wrote his biggest hit *Balajo* in 1939 while he was a soldier, awaiting the Second World War.

Dozens of hit records followed in the 1940s and 1950s, notably *Nuit Blanche*, *Cauchemar*, *Papillons Noirs*, *Anniversaire* and *Mystérieuse*. In all, his repertoire contained some 500 tunes.

Privat, a big colourful man, was known for his generosity towards other musicians, particularly those of gypsy origin — he was known himself as "the white gypsy". He was admired both as a technical virtuoso and as a player who could launch into flights of jazz or turn to dream folk melodies studded with dramatic pauses.

Even the then President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing tried to imitate him, taking his accordion on TV in an unsuccessful effort to improve his haughty image before his defeat by François Mitterrand in 1981.

In the 1980s, musical tastes changed dramatically and the Balajo management downgraded the accordion in favour of disco music. Privat, by then a national institution, toured increasingly without ever losing his very east Paris way of talking, incomprehensible to the young dancing at the Balajo today. Privat returned often to the Rue de Lappe where he frequented the few old-style bistros left in an area once dominated by Auvergnats. He played his last concert at the dance hall in 1989 to celebrate the bicentenary of the French Revolution.

In recent years Privat launched a new career in Asia becoming a star in Japan, where his *Balajo* melody was played on television and radio and where he gave concerts to packed houses.

Jo Privat is survived by a son.

PROFESSOR PETER NAILOR

Peter Nailor, Provost of Gresham College, former civil servant and university professor, died on April 5 aged 67. He was born on December 16, 1928.

PETER NAILOR enjoyed a varied career, spent partly in the academic world and partly in public service. The fact that he slotted into no easy category probably had something to do with what, in a predominantly managerial society, some may have seen as a failure to fulfil his potential.

Peter Nailor was the only son of Leslie Nailor and his wife Lily Matilda (née Jones). Coming from no grand family background, he was educated at the Mercers' School — then on the site of Barnard's Inn in Holborn — and subsequently at Wadham College, Oxford, where he read Modern History, taking a first in 1952. He joined the Admiralty as an assistant principal that same year. He quickly made his mark. He did well as private secretary to Sir John Lang, then Secretary to the Admiralty and one of Whitehall's most outstanding characters who combined being both kind and demanding.

He spent the years from 1962 to 1967 as a member of the Polaris Executive, which was set up following the Nassau Agreement between President Kennedy and Harold Macmillan of December 1962. This was a long spell for any civil servant in one post but it was regarded as necessary if the Polaris project was to be brought to fruition in terms of both time and contained cost. The executive was a small, self-contained group tucked away in a corner of the Ministry of Defence in Whitehall. Nailor played a major role in helping to mastermind the finance and administrative side of the project. This involved a number of new ideas in terms of management and control, including working closely with the United States.

It may be that this distinctly long stint, despite its advantages, took him somewhat out of sight of the mainstream and influenced both him and his future in Whitehall (although, to be fair, he was never career-minded) while at the same time encouraging his interests in activities elsewhere.

As things worked out, he went on to become head of a new division in the Defence Secretariat, within the Ministry of Defence, which had been set up to think ahead: to produce realistic scenarios, cutting across service boundaries, and against which any service, or inter-service requirements, could be tested. This division became increasingly involved in what is now known as the Arms Control field, including its nuclear aspects. Nailor worked closely, and comfortably, with the Defence Planning Staff and the Defence Operations Analysis Executive at Byfleet. This was a job he relished. It was innovative. It was intellectually demanding. It gave him opportunities to meet a much wider range of people both inside and outside Whitehall.

In the second half of the 1960s the Ministry of Defence was seeking to establish a dialogue, particularly over defence policy issues, with the academic world, including the idea of secondments in both directions. It was in this encouraging atmosphere that Nailor went to become Professor of Strategic Studies in the Department of Politics and International Relations at the newly-founded University of Lancaster. His initial thinking was that he would spend three years there and then return to the Ministry of Defence but, in the event, he stayed happily at Lancaster from 1969 to 1977 and was Head of Department from 1974 to 1977.

He took to academic life enthusiastically. He enjoyed teaching and research, edited books and published work in journals and in publications of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. He developed links with a number of overseas universities and was a member of the political science committee of the then Social Science Research Council.

For most of his years at Lancaster he was vice-principal of Lonsdale College with a large flat on the top floor. His home was a *salon* for colleagues and students alike. He created a relaxed, informal environment in which he flourished. His students will recall how much his very personal style added to the pleasures of university life. He encouraged young colleagues in both their teaching and research activities and in spreading their wings outside the university world. As Head of Department, he brought forward positive and practical ideas of financial management, which worked.

To his colleagues and students he was seen as a kind, thoughtful and gentle man but one who would fight hard for something in which he believed. Privately he would often help students with financial problems.

He enjoyed his work and had fun at Lancaster. He was a successful senior academic. He could be firm and on occasions could be difficult, though never harbouring a grudge. He was charming with a gaiety that was infectious. He never took either the world — or himself — too seriously.

In 1977 the Royal Naval College at Greenwich caused him to change tack once again. Throughout his life he had a love affair with the Royal Navy and his appointment as Professor of History and International Affairs at Greenwich was like returning home. He enjoyed his new responsibilities. He had a sure touch. Yet he was not a consensus man. He liked people and was a sympathetic listener but there is no doubt that he was in command of his staff.

He was enthusiastic about the increase in the academic content of the Royal Naval Staff Course at Greenwich. His lectures and tutorials were enlivened by wit and a foreknowledge of potential political mishaps. He delighted in offering hospitality in the Painted Hall. His verbal invitations usually included the injunction: "Dress up for the surroundings; dress down for the food."

It was fitting that, on his retirement, he gave the 1988 Trafalgar Night Address and proposed the toast to Nelson's Immortal Memory, at his last mess dinner in the Painted Hall.

His last post was as part-time Provost of Gresham College. He found it most congenial, not least because it was a return to Barnard's Inn where he had been a boy at school. He worked well with the governing body — mostly members of the City Corporation and of the Mercers' Company, his own Livery Company — and made a major contribution to the renascence of the college by widening its attraction and broadening its appeal. He was making plans for the college's quarter-centenary celebrations the week before he died.

Peter Nailor was an unusual man in many ways. He did not find it easy to determine his real métier in life; hence the diversity of his activities. He was always part-academic and part-public servant. He was full both of intellectual curiosity and a yearning for practicality. He wanted life to be interesting. He always wanted the opportunity to make full use of his outstanding verbal facility with words. He liked diversity both in its own right and for the new opportunities it gave him to use his wit, which he did with abundance throughout his life.

He never married.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BENNETT, JOSEPH HENRY BENNETT late of Islington, London N1 died at Camden, London NW3 on 12 January 1996 (Estate about £95,000)
BRAND, JAMES BENJAMIN BRAND late of Finsbury, London EC1 died at St Pancras, London NW1 on 11 December 1994 (Estate about £6,000)
BRANTON, EILEEN BRANTON SPINSTER late of Withernsea, Hull died there on 20 August 1995 (Estate about £16,000)
DAVIES, JAMES DAVIES late of Hammersmith, London W6 died there on 11 November 1995 (Estate about £80,000)
DAWSON, KENNETH DAWSON late of Leeds, West Yorkshire died there on 20 November 1995 (Estate about £15,000)
DIMENT, WALTER DIMENT late of Luton, Bedfordshire died there on 17 August 1990 (Estate about £30,000)
DOUGHTY, JAMES HORACE THOMAS DOUGHTY late of Epsom, Surrey died there on 28 January 1996 (Estate about £50,000)
HAWTHORN, BERNARD HAWTHORN late of Flint, Clwyd died there on 4 November 1995 (Estate about £6,100)
HAYES, PERCY ALEXANDER HAYES late of Southend on Sea died at Rochford, Essex on 21 June 1994 (Estate about £11,000)
HOWARD, CARL FRANK CARRINGTON HOWARD otherwise CHARLES FRANK HOWARD late of Chiswick, London W4 died at Hammersmith, London W6 on 12 November 1995 (Estate about £70,000)

PUBLIC NOTICES

JOHNSON, ERNEST REGINALD JOHNSON late of Plymouth, Devon died there on or about 8 October 1995 (Estate about £20,000)
KNIGHT nee JOHANSON, WINNIE MAY KNIGHT otherwise WINIFRED MAY KNIGHT nee JOHANSON WIDOW late of Teddington, Middlesex died there on 28 June 1995 (Estate about £6,000)
MASON, CATHERINE MASON otherwise KATHRYN MASON SPINSTER late of Sheffield died there on 22 July 1995 (Estate about £12,000)
O'NEILL, THOMAS OWEN O'NEILL late of London, Stoke on Trent died there on 3 September 1995 (Estate about £6,000)
SLATER, ARTHUR SLATER late of Hyde, Cheshire died at Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancashire on 30 May 1995 (Estate about £11,000)
TALLACK nee SMITH, ALICE MARY TALLACK otherwise ALICE TALLACK nee SMITH WIDOW late of Edmonton, London N18 died there on 30 June 1992 (Estate about £6,500)
TILL, ARTHUR ROLAND TILL late of Gloucester died there on 9 March 1994 (Estate about £11,500)
WILKINS, DENNIS PETER WILKINS late of Northampton, Northamptonshire died there on 25 January 1992 (Estate about £22,000)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.
DERRY, VERA DERRY SPINSTER late of Portland, Dorset died there on 15 May 1995 (Estate about £14,000)
The kin of the above-named and Pam Dyer named as executor in her will are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds - 207076
Scheme amending the objects of the Society
Reference: JAL-VN-794-LT
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Messrs Bailey Shaw & Gillett, 17 Queen Square, London WC1N 3RH, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset TA1 4BL quoting the above reference. Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

LEGAL NOTICES

MOCCI Shoes UK Limited
- In Administrative Receivership -
Registered Number: 2558194
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a general meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at PO Box 665, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF on 25 April 1996 at 12.00 hrs for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Administrative Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.
Please note that a creditor is entitled to vote only if he has delivered to the Administrative Receivers at Leonard Curtis & Co. not later than 12.00 hrs on 25 April 1996 details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules 1986 and there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Dated 4TH April 1996
K. D. Goodman, FCA
Joint Administrative Receiver.

SIG TERMINATIONS LIMITED
(In Members Voluntary Liquidation)
(Formerly Safeguard Insurance Services Limited)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the creditors of the above named company are required on or before 15 JUNE 1996 to send in writing their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their solicitors, if any, to Ian Douglas Bayliss Bond of Coopers & Lybrand, Plumtree Court, London EC4A 4HT the Joint Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidator, or by their solicitors, or personally, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
DATED 4 April 1996.
I.D.B. BOND, Joint Liquidator.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-481 1982
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

ON THIS DAY

April 11, 1942

Rationing ended in 1954 when butter and meat came off points. It has been said that people were better fed during the war than before it.

2¼ YEARS OF FOOD RATIONING

Food rationing was resumed after a break of 20 years on January 8, 1940, 18 weeks after the start of the war. *The Times*, in a leading article on November 2, 1939, had stated that it was "to begin gently," and the accuracy of that description will be even more apparent to-day than it was two and a half years ago, for when rationing came in again it covered at first only bacon, butter (allowing 4oz. with no check on purchases of margarine), and sugar (12oz. against 8oz. to-day) . . .

It may be found useful to have printed together the amounts of the various rationed foods to which at present the individual citizen is entitled :-

MAIN FOODS (WEEKLY)

MEAT: 1s. (5p) worth of butcher's meat: 2d (1p) worth of tinned corned beef or pork. Half this amount for children.
BACON : 4oz.
FATS : 8oz. (6oz. of butter and margarine, of which not more than 2oz. may be butter, and 2oz. of cooking fat).
CHEESE: 3oz. (12oz. for certain workers, including agricultural, forestry, and land drainage, the auxiliary force of the Women's Land Army, county roadmen, train crews, signalmen and permanent way men without access to canteens, miners, and vegetarians who do not take their meat or bacon rations).
SUGAR : 8oz. TEA: 2oz.
PRESERVES: (as with points foods) are made available for periods of four weeks, in respect of each of which the ration is 1lb. of jam, marmalade, syrup, treacle, or mincemeat.

POINTS FOODS

Beginning with the four weeks period which started on Monday each consumer is allowed 24 points, and the value of the coupons in the pink books is now: A, one point; B two; and C, three. These may be expended as follows :-

TINNED SALMON - Grades I and II, 32 points a lb., or from 32 to 8 according to the size of the tin: grade III, 24 points a lb. or 24 to 6 according to size of tin.
SARDINES - From 3 to 36 points according to size of container, or 24 a lb. net.
OTHER TINNED FISH - From 1 to 24 points a tin according to size or from 12 to 16 points a lb.
TONGUES - 24 points a lb.
MEAT ROLL OR GALANTINE - 21 points a 3lb. container or 8 points a lb.
OTHER TINNED MEATS - 8 points a lb.
DRIED FRUITS - 6 points a lb. These include dates, currants, raisins, sultanans, apples, plums, prunes, figs, apricots, nectarines, and peaches.
RICE, SAGO AND TAPIOCA - 2 points a lb.
BREAKFAST CEREALS - Containers of 8oz. and under, 2 points; up to 12oz., 3 points; over 12oz. 4 points.
DRIED PEAS - 4 points a lb.
IMPORTED DRIED BEANS - 1 point a lb.
SPLIT PEAS AND LENTILS - 2 points a lb.
TINNED FRUIT - From 8 to 16 points a tin, or after removal from container 8 points a lb.
TINNED BEANS - From 1 to 4 points a tin or, with tomato sauce, 2 to 8 points a tin.
BEANS - (dried, in brine) - From 1 to 3 points a tin.
TINNED PEAS - 3 or 4 points a tin.
TINNED TOMATOES - 3 to 9 points.
CONDENSED MILK - From 4 to 10 points according to quality and size of tin.
Eggs are not rationed in the official sense: they are allocated. The latest allocation provided for three a head in March.
MILK - Expectant mothers and children up to six years, 1 pint daily; children and adolescents from six to 17, ½ pint daily; school children up to two-thirds of a pint a day; invalids up to 2 pints daily; other adults 3 pints weekly.
COD LIVER OIL - Children under five.

No-one understands your needs better

Third World lures tourists

By Steve Keenan

THE WORLD'S developing countries are taking a bigger slice of the tourism cake — and the biggest loser is Western Europe.

Over the past 20 years, Europe has lost nearly a 10 per cent share of tourist arrivals. The Americas also saw their share shrink by nearly 3 per cent.

But all other areas of the world have seen their market grow — Africa, the Middle East, South Asia and East Asia/Pacific, according to a comprehensive new report from the World Tourism Organisation (WTO).

The biggest growth has been to East Asia and the Pacific, which has more than trebled its share of international tourists (to 14.7 per cent) and revenue (18.7) over the past two decades.

The region has consistently been the strongest growth area of the past decade, overtaken for the first time last year by the Middle East and South Asia.

The surge in tourism to developing countries has seen destinations including China, Hong Kong and Singapore *leap up the table of the world's* top 20 tourism hotspots.

The growth is mirrored in figures to Eastern Europe, where Poland has seen arrivals grow six-fold in five years and the Czech Republic has doubled its figures.

China now ranks fifth with 23.4 million arrivals last year, up from 10.5 million just five years ago. The trend is set to continue, with the UK alone seeing growth of 30 per cent in bookings for long-haul travel this year.

The WTO figures show that Europe accounted for three in five (59.5 per cent) of all international tourist arrivals last year. The United Kingdom showed the biggest rise, with figures up 7.9 per cent to 22.7 million visitors.

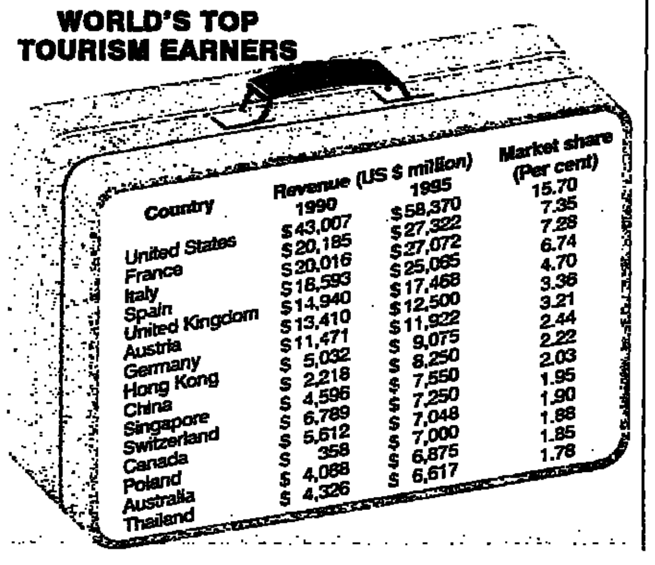
But Europe's share of both arrivals and revenue has shrunk since 1975, when more than two-thirds (69.2 per cent) of tourists visited this continent.

"The past five years have witnessed a gradual diversification of tourist markets with the emergence of new destinations such as Hong Kong and Singapore," the report says.

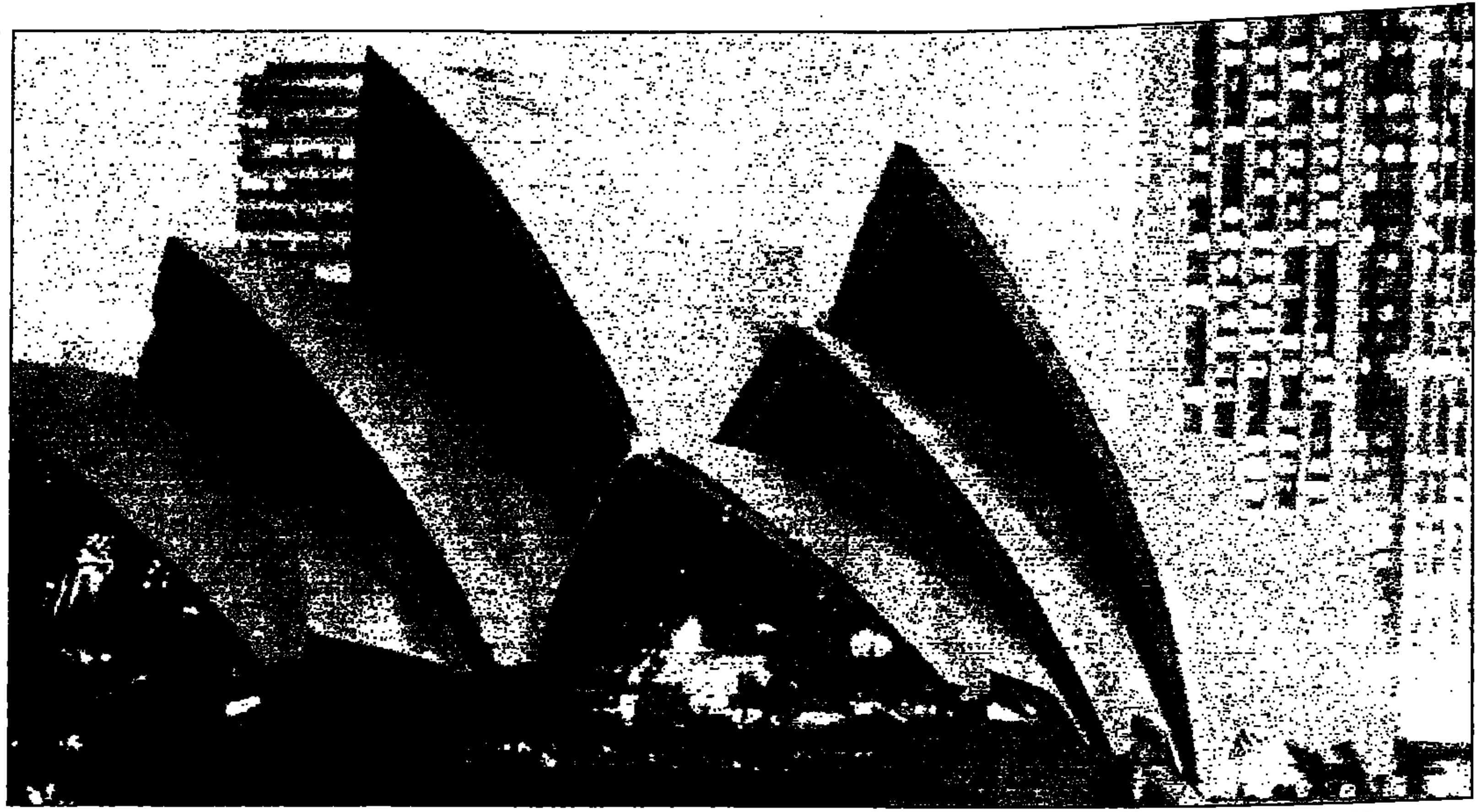
"The same phenomenon is observed in Central and Eastern Europe, where countries such as Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic have all chalked up sizeable gains in the world ranking."

The Middle East was the fastest growing region last year, largely due to the recovery in tourism to Egypt, up 95 per cent. South Asia reported the second biggest growth, spurred by a 20 per cent leap in visitors to India and 10 per cent growth to the Maldives.

WORLD'S TOP TOURISM EARNERS



Country	Revenue (US $ million) 1990	1995	Market share (Per cent)
United States	$43,007	$58,370	15.70
France	$20,185	$27,322	7.35
Italy	$20,016	$27,072	7.28
Spain	$18,593	$25,065	6.74
United Kingdom	$14,940	$17,468	4.70
Austria	$13,410	$12,500	3.36
Germany	$11,471	$11,922	3.21
Hong Kong	$ 5,032	$ 9,075	2.44
China	$ 2,218	$ 8,250	2.22
Singapore	$ 4,596	$ 7,550	2.03
Switzerland	$ 6,789	$ 7,250	1.95
Canada	$ 5,612	$ 7,048	1.90
Poland	$ 358	$ 7,000	1.88
Australia	$ 4,088	$ 6,875	1.85
Thailand	$ 4,326	$ 6,617	1.78



The new Government's raising of the cap on visas will give more young British backpackers the opportunity to see Sydney Opera House this year

Australia increases visas

By Harvey Elliott

THOUSANDS of young people whose hopes of spending a working holiday in Australia had been dashed will now be able to travel Down Under. It is all due to the change of government in Australia.

The former Labor Government had imposed a worldwide cap on the number of holiday visas which would be issued in the year to July. This was an effort by Canberra to help to cut the 9 per cent unemployment rate in Australia. Half of the 33,000 visas were allocated to young Britons to enable them to work on backpacking trips around the country.

However, the allocation was used up far more quickly than expected and a complete ban on all visa applications was ordered until the end of June.

The new conservative coalition Government has now relented after pressure from Australia's farmers who said that British youngsters were the best temporary workers in the world. An investigation by government officials also revealed that "young working holidaymakers have a positive effect on the economy through their aggregate demand for food and services".

The number of "working" visas available for Britons has now officially been raised from 16,500 a year to 21,000 and from 33,000 to 42,000 worldwide.

Philip Ruddock, the new Immigration Minister, said that the programme was particularly welcomed by the tourism, horticultural, rural and other industries which relied on casual labour at peak times.

"I have listened to their concerns and believe that Australia has more to gain than to lose from raising the cap on the programme imposed by the previous government," he said.

Working holidays in Australia have grown in popularity over recent years since the introduction of cheap charter flights costing as little as £399 return.

A working holiday visa is available to young people between the ages of 18 and 25 and is valid for 12 months.

Last year, a record 350,000 Britons went to Australia purely as tourists.

Laker cleared for take-off

AMERICAN transport officials this week finally signed the paperwork enabling Sir Freddie Laker officially to begin transatlantic services as a US registered airline. *Harvey Elliott and David Churchill write.*

The launch of his new service between Manchester and Florida had been delayed while Federal Aviation Administration and transport department officials studied the details of his new venture. Sir Freddie was forced to start the service with jets borrowed from a French airline until he was given permission to fly DC10 jets.

At peak periods Laker Airways will operate three flights a week between Orlando and Manchester and four flights a week between Orlando and Gatwick. A further service between Prestwick and Orlando is due to begin in May.

Rivals, however, claim that Sir Freddie has launched a service to compete on one of the most over-crowded and most difficult air routes in the world, with prices now at rock bottom and profits thin.

From May 17 the new Laker service will also be joined by a Virgin Atlantic six-flights-a-week service from Manchester to Orlando. Tour company Unijet is also opening a new route to Orlando from Stansted in May, while other charter carriers are increasing the number of flights to Florida this summer. This follows a 25 per cent increase in bookings to Florida this year at a time of falling demand for Mediterranean package destinations.

Colin Brodie, Florida's director of tourism in London, estimates that demands for holidays to Florida this year will hit a record 1.4 million, up from 1.2 million last year.

The strength of interest in Florida is shown by the increase in requests for the free video Disney and Unijet are offering to holidaymakers. Last year some 300,000 were dispatched, but Disney says more than three times as many have been requested so far this year.

But with airline capacity to Florida up by 30 per cent or more this summer, industry sources fear that operators will be forced to cut back or discount heavily to sell seats.

FERRY BARGAINS

Book now for Esbjerg

SCANDINAVIAN Seaways is offering 25 per cent off fares between Harwich and Esbjerg in Denmark booked before April 30, for travel between June 1 and August 31. Fares start from £59 per person for couchette accommodation booked seven days in advance. Details: 0990 333000.

☐ HOVERSPEED is offering day-trips in April at £25 for a car and five passengers on its Dover-Calais and Folkestone-Boulogne routes. Available through Eurodrive, the price rises to £35 in May and June from Dover but remains at £25 from Folkestone. Saturdays carry a £10 supplement. Details: 0181-324 4040.

☐ BRITANNY Ferries has a special offer of a day-trip or 24-hour return for just £19 on its four routes to France from Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth until April 30, to cover a car and occupants. A three-day return is also on offer at £39, and an eight-day return costs £69. Details: 0990 360 360.

☐ DRIVELINE Europe is promoting 24-hour fares with P&O European Ferries for £29 a car and five passengers on Dover-Calais (Saturdays £10 extra) until June 30. A five-day return is on sale for £55 for a car and two passengers. Details: 01707 660011.

☐ STENA Line has cheap April fares to publicise its Lynx catamaran service from Dover to Calais. Day-trips for a car and five passengers cost £30, a three-day return £49 (£10 supplement for Saturdays). Foot passengers travel for £8 any day. Bookings must be made seven days in advance. Details: 0990 707070.

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خزانة الاصول

Why tour operators love the North West

The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Elegant Resorts, one of Britain's most up-market tour operators, is to produce a brochure aimed at holidaymakers living in the North West.

The company was set up in 1988 in Chester, but its main target audience until now has been in the South East. However, a raft of statistical and anecdotal evidence has indicated that the economic balance and, more importantly, the area in which people are prepared to spend to enjoy themselves, is shifting north.

Elegant Resorts provides only long-haul holidays to some of the finest hotels in the world, using scheduled airlines and charging up to £40,000 for a holiday in exotic spots such as Mauritius or the Seychelles.

An increasing number of people from the North West can afford the price. Last year at least 20 per cent of its clients came from the area and this year the figure is expected to grow to about 35 per cent.

Liz Jeffries, of the Greater Manchester Visitors and Convention Bureau, says: "You have only to walk around the city to see how prosperous we have become. Armani and Vivienne Westwood have both opened branches in Manchester and Versace is shortly coming to town. A recent survey showed that south Manchester and north Cheshire have more millionaires per head of the population than anywhere else in the country."

Lunn Poly, the mass-market travel agency, has opened a branch in the centre of Manchester to deal with the demand for exotic holidays. Last week the Lord Mayor opened its "worldwide lounge", specialising in long-haul travel, with 22 full-time staff.

Beverley Longsden, the manager, said: "Our customers certainly have a taste for the exotic. The most popular long-haul destinations from Manchester are Florida, the Far East, the Caribbean and Australia."

Those who stay at home also have an increasing taste for the good life. The Chester Grosvenor hotel, for example, has been chosen as this year's host for the Mumm Champagne gastronomy dinner — the first time the prestige culinary event has been held outside London.

The key to all inbound and outbound travel to the region, however, is Manchester airport. Last month, in a survey of 45,000 international airline passengers by the International Air Transport Association, it was voted the best airport in the world.

It was the first time Manchester had appeared in the list of the top 43 airports surveyed in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia.

But this year Manchester, which is local authority-owned and is in the middle of a £500 million capital investment programme, beat Singapore Changi into second place and Amsterdam into third. Gatwick was ranked twelfth and Heathrow twenty-sixth.

Air Mauritius has now introduced twice-weekly flights from Manchester to the Royal Palm hotel on the Indian Ocean island, with packages costing £1,499 for five nights. Seats are booked for months ahead.

Forget the image of near-poverty so often used to portray the North West. It is now the economic powerhouse of Britain.

Winter in Africa for £439

By Steve Keenan

EXOTIC holidays and cruising are expected to show the greatest growth in bookings from the winter 1996-97 brochures out today from Britain's two biggest tour operators.

Thomson and Airtours, which between them sell half of all overseas holidays, have targeted couples willing to travel further for winter sunshine and adventure.

The demand for long-haul holidays is one bright spot of this spring, with sales running 30 per cent up in a market that is 20 per cent down overall.

But the long-haul market in winter has also trebled, to 500,000 people, in the past six years, according to Thomson.

"Long-haul is enjoying a particularly good run at the moment. All the growth this winter was in that market, and it wouldn't surprise me if it is the same next year," said Colin Mitchell, Thomson's planning director.

Thomson is running a charter series to the Pacific resort of Puerto Vallarta in Mexico for the first time, and expects Sri Lanka to return to favour. Its lead-in price to Mombasa is £439 for two weeks.

Airtours has also produced a long-haul brochure for the first time, and introduces Bali and the Maldives — the latter starting at £449 for a week.

The company believes 80 per cent of customers from the brochure will be couples, the retired and young "empty nesters" looking for quality and value.

Both companies have also targeted cruising as the other growth area. "Cruising is becoming more popular by the day," said Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director. "More than 350,000 Britons sail around the Mediterranean and Caribbean and the figure is set to double by the year 2000."

New ports of call for Airtours are Istanbul and the Caribbean islands of Margarita, Curaçao and Aruba. Prices start at £499 for a week.

Around 2.6 million people took an overseas holiday this winter, with beach holidays in Spain accounting for nearly half the market, according to the travel agents Lunn Poly.

Thomson expects to provide one million free cups of tea and biscuits this winter, to run 2,000 bingo games and will have ballroom dancing in 37 hotels in eight resorts.

The favourable exchange rate also saw a renaissance in demand for Florida (up 10 per cent), followed by France, Portugal and Cyprus. Long-haul accounts for 20 per cent of the market.

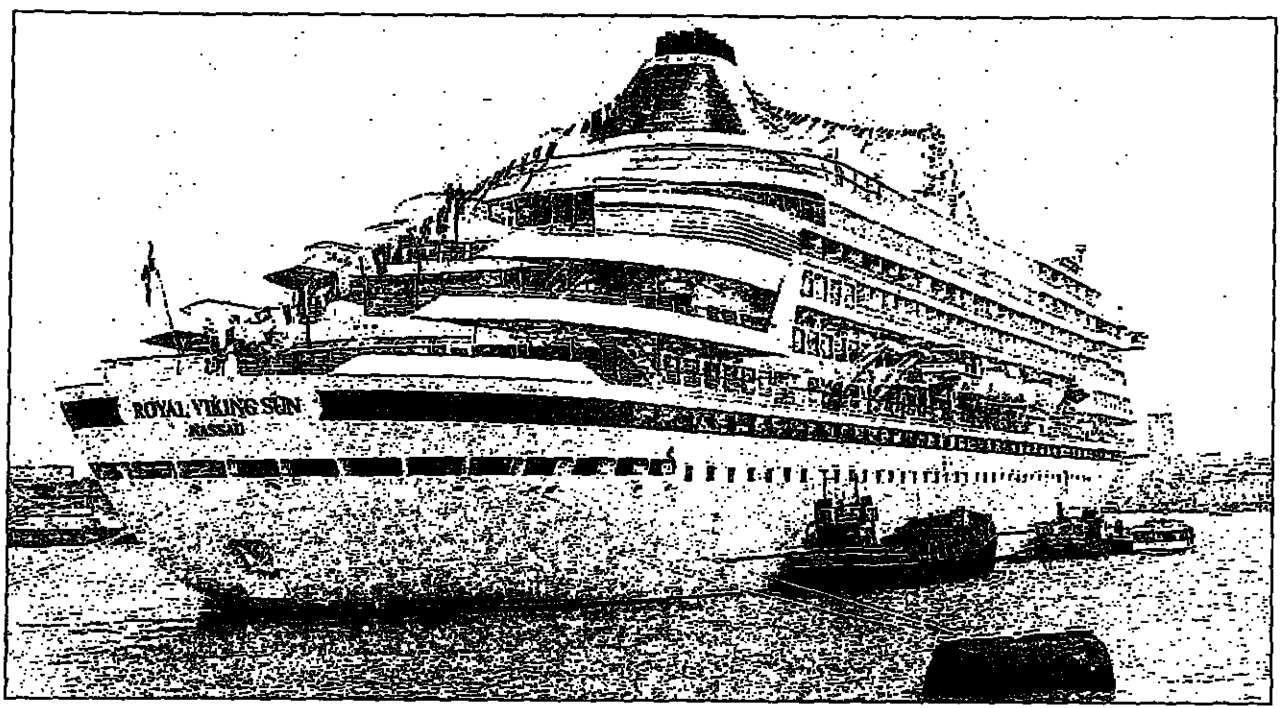
I've jeans, fly me

PASSENGERS travelling with a new airline that is about to start services from Britain will be served by cabin staff wearing jeans, leather flying-jackets and trainers, *Roger Bray writes.*

Denim Air is the latest in a wave of operators to abandon the conventional image of the hostess in run-free tights, immaculate white blouse and neat hat. It follows EasyJet, which began flying between London and Scotland last year, and which dresses its cabin crew in sweatshirts.

The Dutch-owned Denim will operate two round trips a day between London City Airport, Docklands, and Eindhoven from April 26. The logo on the side of its planes will be in denim blue.

Ray Gaffney of Denim says: "We wanted to do something different. We see ourselves as a young, competitive operator, much the same as Virgin and Lauda Air."



Royal Viking Sun docks in Egypt after striking a reef. Cunard claims the publicity has actually increased bookings

Accident boosts bookings

By Harvey Elliott

AS CUNARD's new Norwegian owners this week puzzled what to do with their trouble-prone acquisition, potential passengers ignored the recent spate of bad publicity and flocked to book a cruise on the *Royal Viking Sun*, Cunard's luxury liner which last week hit a reef off Egypt.

"It has been an exact repeat of the pattern which followed the problems we had with the *QE2* last year," said Eric Flounders, the Cunard spokesman. "Far from cancelling their cruise bookings in the wake of the incident, they now know more about the *Royal Viking Sun*. They have heard that it is rated in the Berlitz Guide as the number one cruise ship in the world and has been for years.

"Last year, bookings for the *QE2* in January and February were well up on the previous year's levels because people learnt that the ship had undergone a massive refit. Now that the *Royal Viking Sun* has hit the headlines, they know far more about a ship which was largely unknown in the British market. It just shows that there is no such thing as bad publicity."

Whether this will convince the directors of Kvaerner — the Oslo-based engineering company who took over Cunard's parent company, Trafalgar House, less than 24 hours before the *Royal Viking Sun* struck the reef — to keep the ship and the six others in the fleet is doubtful.

P&O's Gwyn Hughes: cruising boom

Officially, they insist that retaining the ships remains a possibility, but most experts believe that they will dispose of at least some, if not all of them. Kvaerner's takeover of Trafalgar House does not become "absolute" until next Thursday, when the European Commission has finally approved the deal, but already decisions are being made about the future of one of Britain's most prestigious and best-known maritime names.

"The directors support our attempt to reorganise and develop the luxury end of the market and to bring Cunard back to profitability," said a spokesman for Trafalgar House. "That could take two years and then we will review the options. These could include a merger with another company, a joint marketing agreement, sale or further investment."

One option being considered is to retain the four most luxurious ships — *QE2*, *Royal Viking Sun* and two ocean-going yachts both named *Sea Goddess* — and sell the remaining three. Few problems are expected in disposing of these three ships because of the continuing boom in cruising. Last year, many companies reported an increase of up to 80 per cent in bookings and so far this year the trend has continued.

"We still have a little space but bookings are extremely good at the moment," said Gwyn Hughes, managing director of Cunard's rival P&O, whose flagship, the *Oriana*, is now a year old. The ship has had the propellers replaced to prevent vibrations at full speed. In the first year of operations it carried 35,000 passengers more than 124,000 miles and visited 89 ports.

In the meantime, the *Royal Viking Sun* is to be towed to a dry dock for repairs and, it is hoped, it will be back in service by the beginning of June.

All 560 passengers on board have been offered a 14-night cruise on other ships in the fleet. If they accept — and most are expected to do so — they will join hundreds of others still to take up their compensatory trips offered after the fire on board the *MV Sagafjord* and as a result of the *QE2* cruise which began before a major refit could be completed.

BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

HOLIDAYS

SEVEN and 14-night Southern Caribbean Cruises from £799 per person are on offer from Seawind Cruise Line. Sailing out of Barbados on April 18, 25, May 2 and 9, the cruise takes in St Lucia, Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, Martinique, Aruba and Curaçoa. Prices include return flights from London to Barbados. Details: 0171-723 6773.

☐ SAVINGS of £240 per person for a 12-night stay in Bali are on offer from Tropical Places. Staying at the three-star Club Bali Mirage Hotel between May 1 and June 30 costs £999 per person including return flights from Heathrow. Details: 01342 825123.

☐ REDUCTIONS of £50 per person for one and two-week holidays at the three-star Caleta Palace Hotel, Gibraltar, are on offer until the end of June with Cadogan Holidays. Seven-night stays between April 14 and May 22 cost £296 per person (based on two sharing), or £433 for a fortnight. The price includes return flights from Gatwick, transfers and breakfast. Details: 01703 332661.

☐ RETURN flights to Toulouse or Bordeaux are on offer for £99 per person from Air Liberté from April 15 to May 15. Flights run twice daily out of Gatwick from Monday to Fridays and on Sundays. Details: 0345 228899.

☐ SAS Scandinavian Airlines has return flights from Newcastle to Copenhagen for £103 per person, on dates between April 30 and June 30. Flights run twice daily Monday to Saturday and once on Sundays. Details: 0345 010789.

HOTELS

TWO nights half-board on a golfing break, with as many rounds as you can fit in on the hotel's private 18-hole course, is on offer for £145 per person at the Cambridge Moat House. The hotel has a putting green and resident golf professional. Details: 01954 249988.

☐ FRIENDLY Hotels also has a golfing package available at its Quality Station Hotel in either Ayr or Perth, Scotland, for £59 per person per night. The price includes accommodation, breakfast and dinner, and a round of golf at a local course. Details: 01292 263268 (Ayr) or 01738 624141 (Perth).

☐ THE Briggens House Hotel near Ware in Hertfordshire is planning a series of murder-mystery weekends starting on June 14. The price is £99 per couple for overnight half-board accommodation plus the murder scenario. Details: 01279 829955.

☐ LEARN to sail at the ITT Sheraton Hotel Cervo on Sardinia's Costa Smerelda, with professional instruction and all equipment provided. The six-night room-only package costs from £455 per person. Details: 0800 353535.

☐ THE Lygon Arms in Broadway in the Cotswolds has a special fitness weekend package available for £236 per person, with two nights' accommodation. Details: 01386 852255.

☐ TWO of Switzerland's legendary hotels at opposite ends of the Alps, the Suvretta House in St Moritz and the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof in Zermatt, have joined for the first time to offer a summer package. The deal, available from July, costs £915 per person and includes three nights in each hotel and travel between the two on the Glacier Express. Details (from April 16): 00 41 818 321132.

FLIGHTS

MANY discounted flights with Swissair to destinations in the Far East are available through Travel Warehouse before May 31. Typical fares include Hong Kong £492; Singapore £450; Bangkok £439; Peking £475; Osaka £619. Details: 0171-414 8808.

☐ LUFTHANSA is offering a cut-price £369 day-return business-class fare between Manchester, Frankfurt and Munich. The normal fare would cost as much as £536. Details: 0345 737 747.

☐ ATTRACTIVE discounted fares flying Alitalia via Rome are on offer from Lupus Travel. Examples include Dubai £365; Nairobi £368; Rio de Janeiro £450. Details: 0171-306 3000.

☐ AIR UK has announced a fare of £69 return for its new thrice-daily Stansted-Rotterdam service. At the same time, Air UK offers a £5 petrol discount for fly-drive passengers renting a car with Avis at one of 13 mainland UK airports. Details: 0345 666 777.

☐ DURING April, Wexas Travel Club is charging £174 for return Virgin Atlantic flights to New York, with flights to Los Angeles priced at £239, both flying Air New Zealand. Details: 0171-589 3315.

☐ STARTING this month, KLM's Flying Dutchman frequent-flyer members can earn mileage points when patronising Amsterdam airport's duty-free shops.

Disneyland® Paris announces its latest attraction. The price.

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*Based on two adults and two children (3–11 years old inclusive) sharing a room. Offer is applicable for three-night packages starting on any of the following dates: May 5–7, 12, 19–21, 27–28 or June 2–3, 9–11, 16–18. Theme Park Tickets can also be purchased independently from The Disney Store, Keith Prowse and participating agencies, at a cost of £25 per adult or £19 per child for Day passes.

Ref No. TX1204

Business flyers ape Garbo

By David Churchill

BUSINESS travellers may be among the world's most frequent flyers, but a new survey shows they are an antisocial group, eager to avoid other passengers.

The survey, by the publishers of the *Official Airlines Guides* (*OAG*), of 2,200 executives who regularly fly on business found that four out of ten had at some time changed their airline seats to avoid a fellow traveller on their flight. Another fifth of those surveyed had asked at check-in to be seated as far as possible from other passengers. This Greta Garbo "I want to be alone" approach applied mostly to older and male frequent-flyers, say the *OAG* researchers. If travelling executives have to sit next to someone, their ideal passenger is "someone you don't need to talk to".

The most antisocial travellers are those based in Hong Kong, it seems, closely followed by British and American executives.

The myth of picking up a new social partner remains just that, especially for American business travellers, although the French are more willing to use their time to form a friendship with a fellow passenger. The British are more likely than any other nationality to complain to the cabin crew about their neighbour's behaviour.

The comprehensive survey also suggests there are national stereotypes of business travellers. The British, it says, are most likely to be demanding a free drink in the executive lounge before a flight. They are the least focused on work and career and most willing to give up their seat for money on an overbooked flight. The survey says: "When they are propping up the bar, the last thing on their mind is sending a fax."

The British executive in the air also comes out as a "moaning Minnie", usually complaining about the injustice of someone else getting a seat upgrade or paying a lower fare. The French, on the other hand, "are the most conscientious at being charming to check-in staff in order to get a flight upgrade". They fly Air France whenever possible.

German executives surveyed also live up to their image, being mostly concerned with efficiency criteria such as punctuality, modern aircraft and a smooth check-in. Americans are obsessed by frequent-flyer programmes and less concerned about the amount of legroom they have or type of plane. But they are the most aggressive at seeking flight upgrades.

SATURDAY TRAVEL

Travel the world again in the *Weekend* section:
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Plus: Kate Muir launches Insider's Paris
Gliding in Hampshire, reading in Wales

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NEWS

Blair courts Wall St with tax pledge

■ Tony Blair flew into New York to tell some of the world's leading financiers that a Labour Britain would be a safe bet for their investments.

Within hours of arriving for a three-day visit, the Labour leader told a Wall Street audience that he was a "passionate free-trader". He assured them of his commitment to enterprise and promised that Labour would set tax rates that would not deter overseas companies .... **Page 1**

Church urged to attract young back

■ Fundamental change is needed to stop young people abandoning the Church of England in droves, the General Synod is to be told after a study found that youth attendance *had dropped by a third in seven years*. Lack of interest by youngsters threatens the future of Anglicanism .... **Page 1**

Tyson assault claim

Mike Tyson, the heavyweight *boxing champion, is under* investigation after a woman complained of sexual assault in a Chicago nightclub .... **Page 1**

MPs' survival guide

Anthony Steen, MP, could have hit on a growth industry. A veteran campaigner, he has written an expert guide for a fellow Conservative MP on how to save his *marginal seat* .... **Page 1**

Beef ban stays

The *blanket ban on British beef remained* in force after EU officials turned a deaf ear to calls for beef by-products such as gelatin and tallow to be taken off the prohibited list .... **Page 2**

'Safe' Ecstasy row

A claim that Ecstasy is safer than asprin by the director of social work in Glasgow brought calls for her resignation from drug rehabilitation workers .... **Page 3**

Boarding school blow

Boarding schools face a fall in pupils after the Inland Revenue confirmed that thousands of parents are to lose tax concessions on *money set aside to pay for school* fees .... **Page 4**

Culinary fightback

Two top London restaurateurs are planning to teach the French a lesson in modern gastronomy when they open British restaurants in Paris .... **Page 5**

Defective planning

When the Tories won the 1992 *general election party leaders* knew that deaths would whittle down their majority. Few believed defections would effectively wipe it out .... **Page 10**

Guildhall offer

London's historic Guildhall is being offered to the Labour Party as a home for the elected body with which it is planning to replace the former Greater London Council .... **Page 11**

Liberia rescue

Under heavy artillery fire, more than 150 foreigners were evacuated from Liberia as factional fighting flared across the city for the fifth day .... **Pages 1, 12**

Harassment claims

Women at a Japanese car factory near Chicago who had their bottoms and breasts pinched and were called names have launched America's biggest sexual harassment case .... **Page 13**

Chernobyl fallout

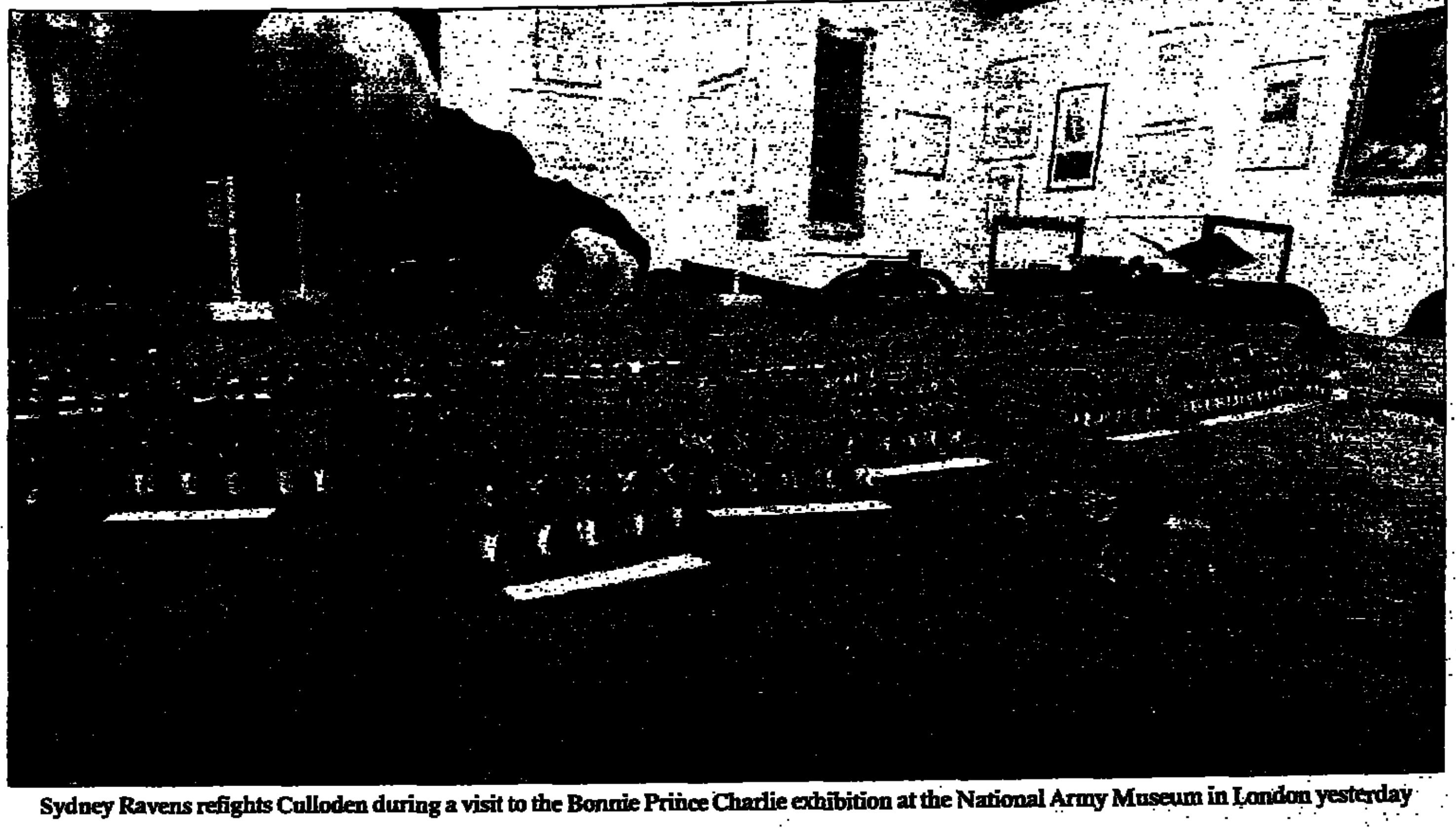
A decade after the Chernobyl accident contaminated vast reaches of Europe, inhabitants of the for*mer Soviet Union and its neigh*bours face the threat of another nuclear disaster .... **Page 14**

Britain must play part

Britain will be expected to play along with a system linking EU currencies to the euro, the European Commission said ... **Page 15**

Where giant angel fears to tread

■ A campaign to stop a massive sculpture being placed in a run-down area of Tyneside gathered momentum with news of a £584,000 grant from the National Lottery. The idea of a 65ft-high steel angel being sited near Gateshead has divided the community. "Stop the Statue" campaigners claim the £800,000 cost would be better spent on hospitals .... **Page 8**


ANDRÉ CAMARA

Sydney Ravens refights Culloden during a visit to the Bonnie Prince Charlie exhibition at the National Army Museum in London yesterday

BUSINESS

Building business: Bristol & West is expected to announce soon that it *is to merge* with a publicly quoted British company .... **Page 25**

Forte: A dispute over the final pay package of Sir Rocco Forte has allowed him to retain his Forte and Savoy directorships three months after the companies were acquired by Granada .... **Page 25**

Liquid gold: The Government raised £77 million through the sale of its remaining shares in six water companies .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 8.8 points to 3767.4. Sterling's *trade-weighted index fell from* 83.9 to 83.7 after a fall from $1.5247 to $1.5168 and from DM2.2761 to DM2.2735 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Golf: Colin Montgomerie starts the 60th Masters with something about to be fitted on his shoulders: the winner's green jacket or the albatross of failing to win another *major championship* .... **Page 48**

Rugby union: Representatives of England's leading clubs will try to buy time today before deciding whether to bow to their governing body .... **Page 46**

Rowing: Steven Redgrave, winner *of three Olympic gold medals* and six world championships, said that he would make his last competitive appearance in this summer's Olympics .... **Page 48**

Football: Wales *have chosen an* experimental side for the match against Switzerland on April 24 .... **Page 45**

ARTS

New films: With his latest movie, *Mighty Aphrodite*, Woody Allen proves that he has not lost his touch despite 25 years of movie-making, while John Travolta confirms his superstar status in the explosive *Broken Arrow* .... **Page 33**

Hollywood hero: John Woo is the Hollywood director who never bumps off a baddie with three bullets when 15 will do .... **Page 34**

Stars lack lustre: Michael Siberry as Petruchio and Josie Lawrence as Kate get little chance to shine in the RSC's production of *The Taming of the Shrew* .... **Page 35**

Musical triumph: The controversial *"modernised" production of* Verdi's early masterpiece, *Nabucco*, arrives at Covent Garden where fine singing saves the day .... **Page 35**

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ROCK
David Sinclair meets Paul Westerberg, an alternative American rock 'n' roll hero

■ PLUS ...
Valerie Grove talks to Simon Wiesenthal about the new biography of the Nazi-hunter

Two of a kind: Martin Fletcher on the impending battle between workaholic Elizabeth Dole and domineering Hillary Clinton in the presidential elections .... **Page 17**

Royal issue: If only cellulite rhymed with Aphrodite, we would find puckered thighs much more charming .... **Page 17**

Roland Boyes: His memory dim*ming, his energy fading, the* MP for Houghton and Washington finally discovered he had Alzheimer's .... **Page 16**

TRAVEL

Sailing on: Passengers are flocking to book cruises on Cunard's *Royal Viking Sun* despite last week's reef crash .... **Page 23**

Am I A Murderer? Bernard Levin on the very worst choice of all; Karen Armstrong on the dangers of witch-hunting .... **Pages 36, 37**

The UN Security Council's message should not be lost on Liberia's warring rivals. Fail to comply with calls for peace and Liberians "risk losing the support of the international community". The consequences could be even more sombre than what is happening now — *The Washington Post*

Preview: Chris Ellison, once of *The Bill*, turns sports promoter. *Ellington (ITV, 9pm)* **Review:** Peter Barnard enjoys a search for the ideal flatmate .... **Page 47**

The empty pew

Restless innovation will not halt the Anglican Church's decline **Page 19**

Out of Liberia

Donors will have to work with Liberia's criminal warlords, knowing that much Western aid will go astray. They should hold their noses, and help .... **Page 19**

Of tubby mice and men

Middle age — when one can do just as much as ever, but would rather not — is the time when most bodies expand and some horizons shrink .... **Page 19**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
My impression is that champagne socialists are really dry white wine socialists nowadays, a good white burgundy from Berry Brothers in the Hampstead set, and something quite acceptable from the Napa Valley in Islington .... **Page 18**

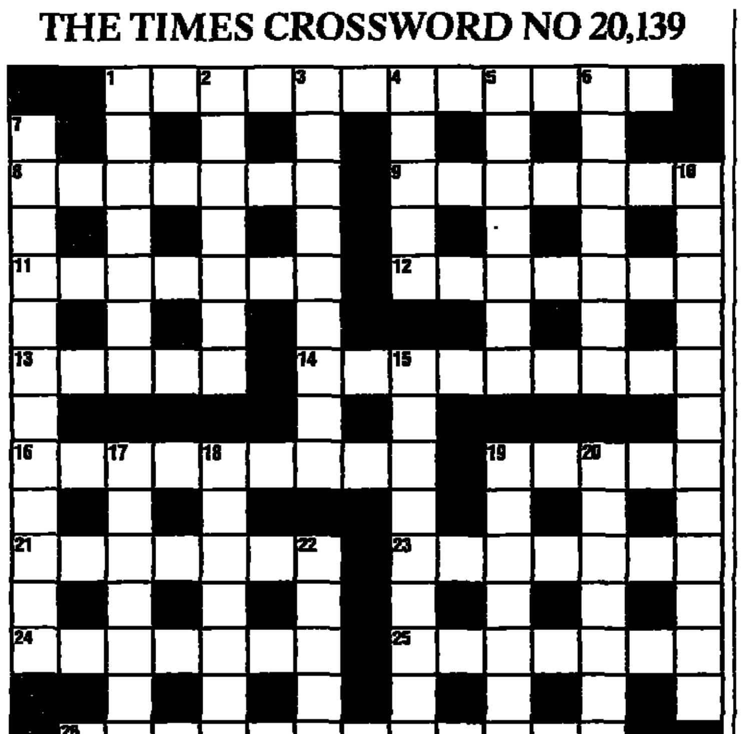
MAGNUS LINKLATER
"A generation *without rules*" is the way one commentator describes *those young* people who have *no* structure to their home lives, whose parents may be separated or simply absent, who are deprived of the normal routine of family life. With no codes of behaviour and no conventional relationships to guide them, it is unsurprising if they drop out of society .... **Page 18**

JOHN BRYANT
*More than 10,000 runners are car*rying the Olympic torch in a ritual *that seems to* reek of antiquity. But the truth is that the torch relay is younger by half a century than its *sponsor*, Coca-Cola, and was dreamt up as a propaganda exercise for the Berlin Olympics in 1936 .... **Page 46**

Richard Condon, American thriller writer; **Jo Privat**, accordionist; **Peter Nailor**, Provost of Gresham College, civil servant and university professor .... **Page 21**

Meeting Europe's demands for cat*tle slaughter; the future of Nato;* evolution of the eye; security in employment .... **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,139



ACROSS

1 Potentially eruptive situation that could make top people act (12).
8 Less rational teaching union facing row (7).
9 The writer in the family flourished (7).
11 Agricultural work done as long as youth lasts (7).
12 They protect piggies confined to back room (7).
13 With this bowler you might expect to get a duck (5).
14 Dogs I round on in pub, making sudden attack (9).
16 Dealer named in connection with arts possibly (9).
19 Horticultural material miller's boy left inside (5).
21 Expel number of people at meeting (7).
23 German fellow or Turk? (7).
24 Son taking things easy, just edging along (7).
25 Pause brings unorthodox form of enlightenment in religious act (7).
26 Substitute after George had to be taken off (6,6).

DOWN

1 One sort of bone or another found in Spanish dish (7).
2 Personal tattle has four joining in (7).
3 Enjoy the moment, or complain to male about female (5,4).
4 Book not quite closed – a little information to follow (5).
5 Trail-blazer as one getting external support (7).
6 My paint may be found in drums (7).
7 Country marriages, for instance? (6,6).
10 Feeling let down, the cad sinned woefully (12).
15 Prisoner on run in wide open area (9).
17 One who scratches using a nail with little hesitation (7).
18 English proposal brings agitation of mind (7).
19 Painter whereby ship's officer secures one vessel (7).
20 A Tamil's converted, becoming sort of Buddhist (7).
22 In Ethiopian province big cat has twisted tail (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,138

B	R	I	G	A	N	T	I	N	E		G	L	E	E
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Times Two Crossword, page xx

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Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
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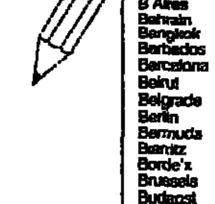
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6 13 am	Sun sets: 7 51 pm
Moon sets 12.16 pm	Moon rises 2.44 am

New Moon April 17

London 7.51 pm to 6.11 am
Bristol 8.01 pm to 6.21 am
Edinburgh 8.12 pm to 6.15 am
Manchester 8.03 pm to 6.16 am
Penzance 8.10 pm to 6.35 am



FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will get off to a misty start but most inland areas will become brighter with some sunshine. Patchy drizzle is likely along *North Sea coasts, while wind and rain* will reach the South West later.

Northeast Scotland will be misty with drizzly rain. Northern Ireland will brighten up, with wind and rain later.

☐ **London, SE England, Central S England, Midlands, NW England, Central N England:** dry, with bright spells after fog. Wind variable or southeast light. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** mist and drizzle on coasts, *bright inland. Wind variable becoming* south-east light. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** mist and fog clearing, then bright but rain from south-west later. Wind southeast *light increasing fresh.* Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Lake District, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland:** dry, with bright or sunny spells after early fog. Wind settling southeast light, perhaps moderate later. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** overcast with mist, fog and rain or drizzle. Wind southeast moderate or fresh locally strong later. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Outlook:** rain spreading to most *parts, then turning to sleet and snow,* especially on northern hills.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

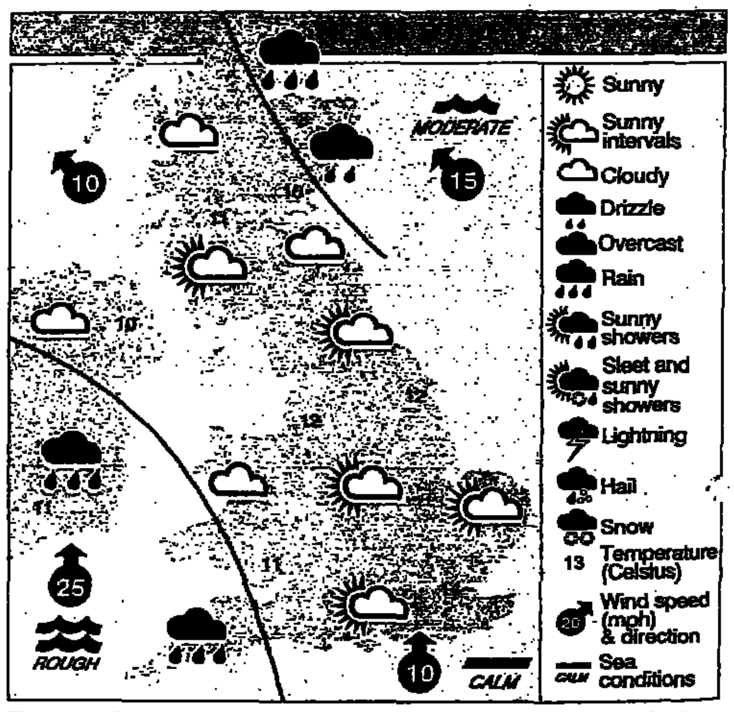
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.6	0.01	6	43	fg
Anglesey	X				
Aviemore	0.4	0.04	11	52	r
Belfast	5.9	0.27	14	57	s
Birmingham	0.2	0.03	13	55	r
Bournem'th	X	0.06	13	56	d
Bristol	X				
Buxton	0.7	0.04	11	52	b
Cardiff	1.2	0.19	12	54	fg
Clacton	-	0.02	8	46	r
Colwyn Bay	X				
Cromer	1.3	0.02	14	57	r
Doncaster	X				
Eastbourne	1.7	0.01	11	52	r
Edinburgh	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.18	10	50	sh
Exmouth	2.7	0.15	13	55	fg
Falmouth	X				
Fishguard	2.0	0.08	12	54	fg
Glasgow	0.1	0.30	11	52	r
Hastings	2.0	0.01	11	52	r
Hove	1.4	0.01	10	50	c
Hunstanton	-	0.07	13	55	r
Isle of Man	3.8	0.26	14	57	s
Jersey	0.1	0.01	13	55	r
Kinloss	X				
Leeds	0.6	0.09	12	54	r
Lerwick	1.4	-	7	45	fg
Leuchars	0.5	0.22	7	45	r
Littlehmptn	-	0.01	11	52	d
Liverpool	X				
London	0.1	0.01	12	54	r
Lowestoft	1.3	0.05	11	52	r
Manchester	0.2	0.06	13	55	r
Margate	-	0.01	13	55	r
Minehead	3.2	0.03	13	55	b
Mmmm					
Morecambe	-	0.09	10	50	r
Newcastle	X				
Norwich	X				
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	0.8	0.06	13	55	r
Penzance	X				
Plymouth	X				
Poole	1.9	0.06	14	57	c
Scarboro'	-	0.07	12	54	r
Shanklin	X				
Shrewsbury	2.1	0.08	15	59	r
Skegness	X				
Southend	X	0.03	13	55	sh
Southport	-	0.05	11	52	d
St. Ives	X				
Stornoway	X				
Swanage	1.0	0.05	12	54	d
Teignmouth	3.6	0.05	12	54	fg
Tenby	X				
Tiree	4.5	0.61	12	54	r
Torquay	3.2	0.20	14	57	b
Tynemouth	X				
Weymouth	0.5	0.09	10	50	r

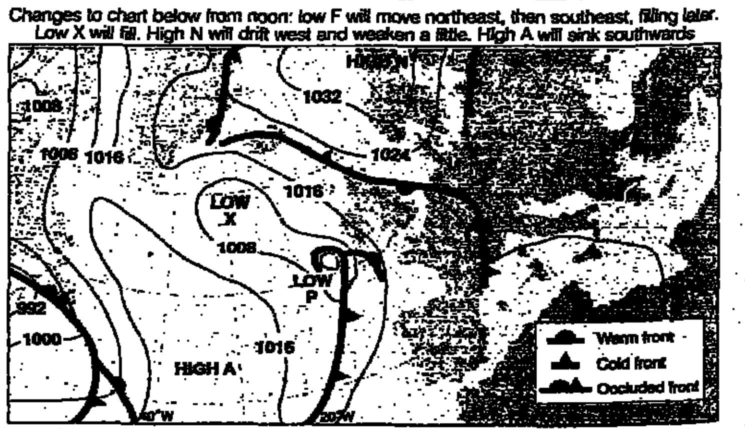
ABROAD

	C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	f
Akrotiri	18	64	s
Alex'dria	19	66	f
Algiers	19	66	s
Amst'dm	15	59	f
Athens	17	63	s
B Aires	22	72	s
Bahrain	26	79	r
Bangkok	37	99	f
Barbados	30	86	f
Barcelona	17	63	s
Beirut	18	64	f
Belgrade	17	63	f
Berlin	12	54	f
Bermuda	X		
Biarritz	16	61	s
Borde'x	18	64	s
Brussels	14	57	f
Budapst	15	59	s
Cairo	22	72	s
Cape Tn	19	66	s
Ch'church	33	91	s
Chicago	6	43	f
Cologne	14	57	s
Corfu	17	63	f
C'phagn	4	39	c
Dublin	12	54	c
Dubrovnik	15	59	f
Faro	19	66	s
Florence	21	70	f
Frankfurt	11	52	f
Funchal	18	64	f
Geneva	12	54	s
Gibraltar	19	66	s
Helsinki	11	52	s
Hong K	19	66	c
Innsbrck	13	55	f
Istanbul	8	46	c
Jeddah	36	97	s
Jo'burg	23	73	f
Karachi	X		
L Angels	16	61	c
L Palmas	22	72	c
Le Touquet	13	55	f
Lisbon	21	70	s
Locarno	X		
Luxembg	12	54	c
Luxor	32	90	s
Madrid	19	66	s
Majorca	20	68	f
Malaga	18	64	f
Malta	17	63	f
Melb'rne	14	57	f
Mexico C	18	64	s
Miami	21	70	r
Milan	20	68	s
Montreal	3	37	X
Moscow	8	46	s
Munich	11	52	c
N Delhi	31	88	s
N York	3	37	sn
Nairobi	X		
Naples	17	63	f
Nice	18	64	f
Oslo	4	39	f
Paris	15	59	c
Peking	14	57	f
Perth	30	86	s
Prague	12	54	f
Reykjavik	5	41	r
Rhodes	17	63	s
Rio de J	29	84	s
Riyadh	34	93	f
Rome	17	63	f
S Frisco	16	61	c
S Paulo	31	88	f
Salzburg	13	55	f
Santiago	23	73	s
Seoul	15	59	s
Sing'por	31	88	f
St'kholm	15	59	s
Strasb'rg	13	55	s
Sydney	20	68	s
Tangier	21	70	s
Tel Aviv	30	86	f
Tenerife	22	72	s
Tokyo	14	57	s
Toronto	4	39	c
Tunis	17	63	f
Valencia	22	72	s
Vanc'ver	12	54	r
Venice	18	64	s
Vienna	15	59	s
Warsaw	11	52	c
Wash'ton	4	39	r
Wel'ngton	X		
Zurich	10	50	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low F will move northeast, then southeast, filling later. Low X will fill. High N will drift west and weaken a little. High A will sink southwards



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6:48	6.1	7:11	5.9
Aberdeen	6:43	3.5	7:36	3.5
Avonmouth	-	-	12:21	10.7
Belfast	4:10	3.2	5:07	3.1
Cardiff	-	-	12:18	9.5
Devonport	11:07	4.5	11:37	4.6
Dover	4:04	5.7	4:47	5.6
Dublin (N Wall)	4:48	3.6	5:44	3.5
Falmouth	10:34	4.3	11:14	4.4
Greenock	5:10	3.0	5:52	2.9
Harwich	4:43	3.4	5:09	3.2
Holyhead	3:22	4.8	4:14	4.5
Hull (Albert D)	11:29	6.3	-	-
Ilfracombe	11:21	7.4	-	-
King's Lynn	11:43	5.8	-	-
Leith	7:54	4.7	8:35	4.6
Liverpool	4:20	8.0	5:01	7.7
Lowestoft	2:37	2.2	2:40	2.1
Margate	5:08	4.1	5:31	3.9
Milford Haven	11:39	5.5	-	-
Newquay	10:49	5.5	11:26	5.6
Oban	11:05	2.8	-	-
Penzance	10:00	4.4	10:49	4.5
Portland	11:40	1.5	-	-
Portsmouth	4:14	4.0	5:07	4.0
Shoreham	4:07	5.2	4:51	5.1
Southampton	3:45	3.9	4:31	3.9
Swansea	11:45	7.8	-	-
Tees	9:04	4.5	9:53	4.6
Walton-on-Naze	4:45	3.7	5:14	3.5

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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Madley, Hereford & Worcester, 16C (61F); lowest day max: Montrose, Tayside, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 0.61in; highest sunshine: Salcombe, Devon, 6.9hr.

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[illegible]

JANET BUSH 29

Will the British consumer salvage the recovery?

BOOKS 36, 37

Mary Warnock on women's role in modern philosophy

SPORT 43-48

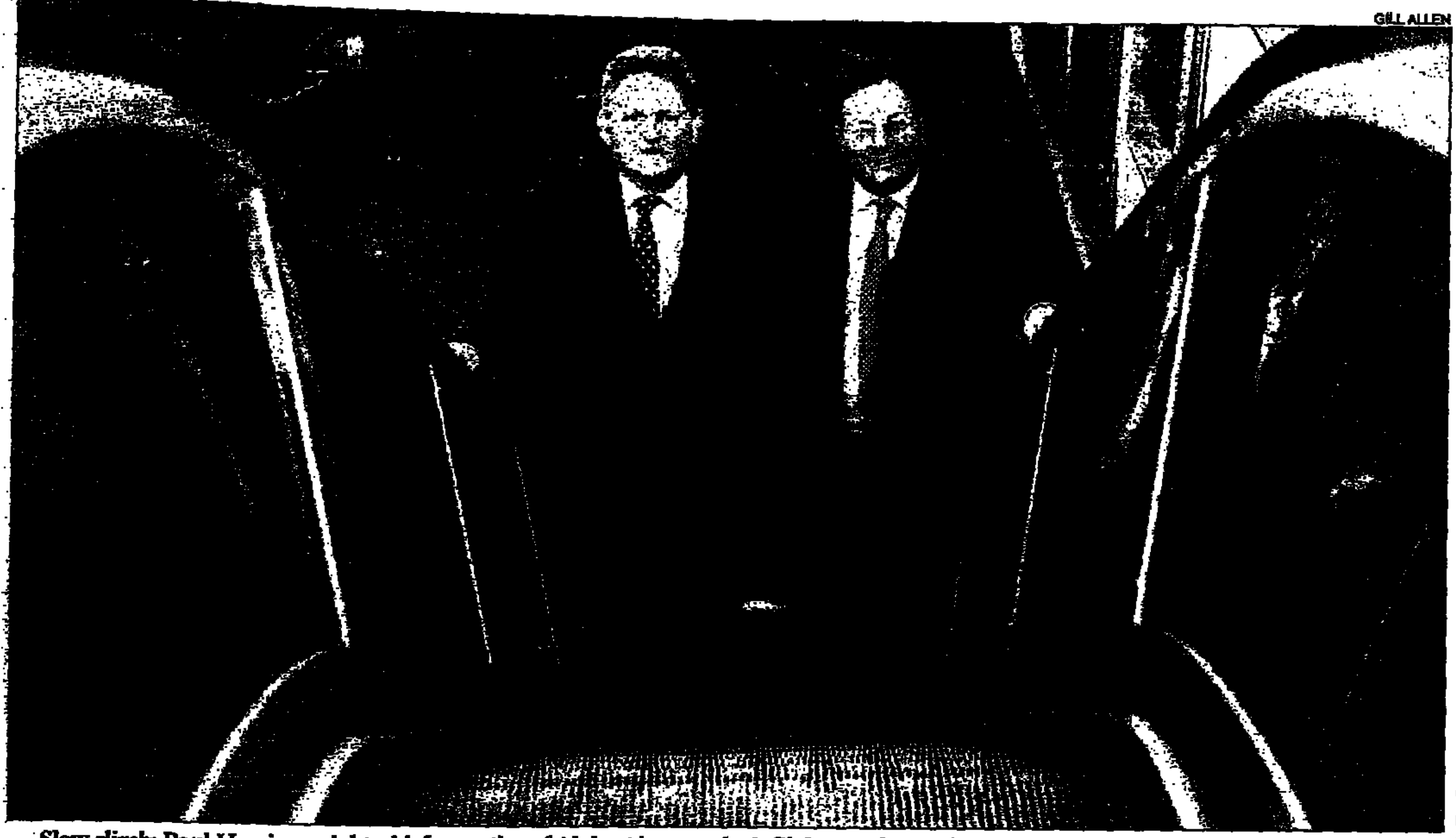
Is Montgomerie ready to master Augusta?

WOODY ALLEN'S SWEET SUCCESS
Arts 33-35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY APRIL 11 1996



GILL ALLEN

Slow climb: Paul Harrison, right, chief executive of Alpha Airports, the inflight catering and retail group, and Stuart Siddal, finance director designate, reported a fall in profits to £20.6 million last year, from £21.4 million in 1994 Full report Page 27 and Tempus Page 28

Bristol & West poised to reveal merger plan

BY ROBERT MILLER

BRISTOL & WEST, the ninth-largest building society, with assets of £9 billion, is expected to unveil plans next Monday of a takeover by a group listed on the London stock market.

A British clearing bank is tipped as the most likely candidate to take over the society, and in the process trigger bonus payouts worth an average of between £750 and £1,000 to more than one million qualifying members.

In recent weeks, speculation over Bristol & West's plans has become intense, with Australian banks such as National Australia Bank tipped as potential bidders. British companies previously linked with Bristol & West include BAT Industries, the tobacco to financial services group.

The Bristol & West deal is likely to mirror last year's takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester building society by Lloyds Bank. C&G is now the official retail mortgage arm of Lloyds and has kept its own corporate identity, as Bristol & West is expected to.

John Burke, chief executive of Bristol & West, said last night: "I never comment on rumour or speculation. Mutuality has served us well since 1850 but that does not necessarily mean that we will continue as a mutual organisation for the next 150 years. We have made no secret of the fact that we have conducted a thorough review of our businesses and strategy. Any decision we take with regard to the future will be in the best interests of all our members and where we can concentrate on providing mortgages, savings and investments."

As part of its business review, Bristol & West earlier this year disposed of Hamptons, its estate agency chain, for £3.8 million leaving the society with a book loss of £33 million. Mr Burke said: "It was an expensive disposal but is an indication of how we are sticking to our core businesses." In terms of financial health, the Bristol & West has returned to corporate health since the early 1990s. In 1993, profits stood at £47.1 million (£77.1 million last year) while its all important costs-to-income ratio has fallen from 58.4 per cent to 52.9 per cent, still on the high side for a tightly run building society. Bad debt cover has almost halved from 1993 levels of £91 million to around £47 million in 1996.

Meanwhile, speculation over which society might be the next one to be taken over, merge with another society or opt for a straight stock market flotation, as Northern Rock did last week, has led to society's having to all but close its doors to new members, many of whom hope to cash in on bonus payouts. National Counties has closed its investment accounts as has the Lambeth. David Hayward, chief executive of the Lambeth, ranked 30 in the building society league with assets of £580 million, said that it had been forced to close all but one of its savings accounts and raise the minimum investment to £1,000 on Monday and then again more than double the entry point yesterday to £2,500. Mr Hayward said: "Following speculation that we might be a merger or bid target our 13 offices were literally swamped and staff had to close the doors."

Adrian Coles, director general of the Building Societies Association, said: "We have contacted both the Treasury and the Building Societies Commission, about the destabilising flows of money into targets of bid speculation. It is quite wrong for genuine society customers to be inconvenienced by people seeking to make a quick buck."

DTI had warning on ostrich venture

BY ROBERT MILLER AND KAREN ZAGOR

THE Department of Trade and Industry received official warnings about the Ostrich Farming Corporation more than a year before it was ordered to cease trading by the High Court last week.

It is also understood that vital business documents were removed from the Nottingham offices of OFC days before the DTI asked the court to appoint the Official Receiver as provisional liquidator last Wednesday. This week, the Serious Fraud Office opened its own investigation.

Inquiries by *The Times* reveal the DTI was passed a file on OFC after an investigation by the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City regulator. The SIB confirmed yesterday that as well as repeating its concerns earlier this year, it had passed over papers to the DTI about the company in early 1995.

A separate company, the Ostrich Sales and Marketing Corporation, is based in New Ollerton, also in Nottingham. Brian Ketchell, OFC's managing director, is also secretary and director of this company.

The DTI declined yesterday to comment on a report that it gave OFC £660 to take part in a trade mission to the Gulf only months before it moved to close the company.

OFC has said that it took in more than £5 million by the end of 1995 and it is understood that cheques continued to roll in through March.

UBS expected to reject merger talks

UNION Bank of Switzerland is today expected to turn down the offer of merger talks with CS Holding, writes Patricia Tehan.

The board will meet to consider an approach made by CS Holding, parent of Credit Suisse, last week. A refusal to hold talks could force CS Holding to put the matter directly to UBS stockholders at a meeting planned for next Tuesday.

However, analysts said the political difficulties of cutting thousands of jobs from the Swiss retail bank network and regulatory hurdles facing the investment banking operations in Switzerland and the US made it less likely that UBS would agree to talk.

Mountain to climb, page 29

Shares bring in £76m for State

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE Government yesterday raised £76.8 million through the sale of its remaining shares in six water companies.

Both the Treasury and NM Rothschild, the Government's financial adviser, dismissed any suggestion that the timing of the sale was influenced by the prospect of Labour forming the next administration. Labour's plans for tougher regulation of the water industry could hit share prices as a general election approaches.

The water sale is part of the Government's programme to sell its rump of shares in privatised companies. It hopes to raise £4 billion through asset sales in the 1996/97 tax year, though the bulk of this will be from the privatisations of Railtrack and British Energy.

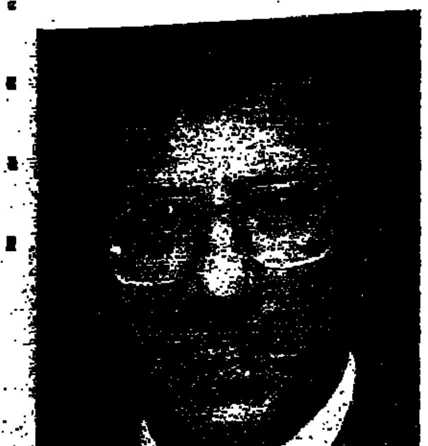
The Government has sold its remaining stakes in Anglian Water, Hyder (formerly Welsh Water), Southern Water, Thames Water, United Utilities and Yorkshire Water. It retains holdings of £25 million in Severn-Trent, Wessex Water and South West Water — the first two of which are trying to take over the third.

The shares were set aside at flotation to provide a loyalty incentive for small investors to hang on to their shares.

After an auction run by Rothschild, the water shares were sold in a "bought deal" to SBC Warburg, which will sell them to institutions. Warburg paid a little above market value.

Pay battle leaves Sir Rocco on board

BY ERIC REGULY



Sir Rocco Forte: travelling

A DISPUTE over the final pay package of Sir Rocco Forte has allowed him to retain his Forte and Savoy directorships three months after the companies were acquired by Granada for £3.9 billion, it emerged yesterday.

Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, said Granada has reached settlements with all the Forte directors except Sir Rocco. "His was a more complicated process," he said. "These things take time and we dealt with Rocco last."

Sir Rocco, who was travelling yesterday and not available for comment, made it clear after the takeover that he would not voluntarily resign the Forte and Savoy directorships until his departure pay was agreed. Technically, he is still Forte's chairman.

Ironically, had Forte survived the takeover bid Sir Rocco would have relinquished the post of chairman to make way for Sir Anthony Tennant, formerly deputy chairman, as pledged in the company's takeover defence.

Sir Rocco is thought to be asking for a redundancy package that reflects his 25 years of employment at Forte, plus his final bonus. Forte directors could earn up to half of their salary in bonus. Sir Rocco's salary and benefits in the latest financial year were £332,000. Performance-related payments of £127,000 raised his total pay package to £459,000, up from £320,000 in the previous year. Mr Allen said he expected to reach a settlement with Sir Rocco within a few weeks, after which he will drop his directorships.

Granada's claim that it could squeeze an extra £100 million profits from Forte is "very achievable," Mr Allen said. Combining some Forte and Granada operations is behind some savings. The rationalisation has cut about 100 Forte management jobs, with a similar number yet to go.

Pennington, page 27
Tempus, page 28

Eight more companies closed down by the ICS

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE Investors Compensation Scheme, the ultimate safety net for investors who lose money through bad advice, theft or fraud, yesterday closed down a further eight firms, bringing the total number of companies shut down since the start of the year to 26. Some 20 of these closures have been in the past two weeks.

The ICS is also understood to be planning to announce details of the first compensation payments to be made to investors who were mis-sold personal pensions next week. About seven firms are expected to be named and many more could follow over the coming months.

The compensation bill for the 26 firms which this year have been declared in default — a legal mechanism that triggers payments to investors — could top £5 million and involve up to 3,500 investors.

The ICS, which had to be bailed out by the Treasury last summer with a £17 million line of credit, is funded largely by firms that sell investments direct to the public and are members of the Personal Investment Authority, a senior City watchdog.

The ICS is to shortly announce the level of its annual levy on firms for their share of the compensation bill over the last 12 months. The total liability is not expected to be much changed from last year's £17 million.

Among the eight firms closed yesterday were Andrew Pollard Financial Services of Chatham, Kent; Leading Financial Services Limited, of Eastleigh, Southampton; DM Financial Consultants of Maidstone in Kent, Lawes Montague (Bristol) of Wokingham, Berkshire, and Mrs Linda Susan Scott, who traded as Alliance Financial Management in Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

It is alleged that an employee of Alliance Financial Management, who was visiting a client in the course of her other employment as a catalogue company agent, also sold the client an unsuitable long-term insurance policy.

Another firm, Liam Carey, who traded as Tara Consultants from offices in Chigwell, Essex, is alleged to have sold a man in his 20s three regular premium insurance policies which required total annual premiums of £26,000. The investor had sought a flexible savings plan where he could stop and start payments when he wanted. Unable to maintain the level of premiums demanded, the policies subsequently lapsed without any value to the investor.

In the case of Pentagon Financial Management (East Anglia) which traded in Bristol and Norwich it is alleged that investors were told by one of the firm's advisers to invest their money in a company which the adviser owned and operated. This alleged conflict of interest was not revealed to the investors.

It is understood that Melvyn Powell, the adviser concerned, was formerly connected with three other firms whose failure prompted the intervention of the the ICS. He was subsequently convicted at Bristol Crown Court of fraudulent trading and sentenced to 12 months in prison and disqualified from being a company director for ten years.

The case of Lewis Alkin Financial Services of North London involved a re-mortgage package linked to an endowment policy where the adviser failed to recommend the most suitable policy to take account of the investor's diabetic condition. This resulted in the investor being forced to make additional payments.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3767.4	(+8.8)
Yield	3.93%	
FT-SE A All share	1874.25	(+4.39)
Nikkei	21791.70	(+47.53)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5557.88	(-2.53)*
S&P Composite	641.51	(-0.88)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5%)
Long Bond	88²⁷⁄₃₂*	(89⁵⁄₃₂)
Yield	6.88%*	(6.84%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6%	(6%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	105¹⁵⁄₃₂	(105⁹⁄₃₂)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.5115*	(1.5215)
London:		
$	1.5095	(1.5247)
DM	2.2674	(2.2748)
FFr	7.7080	(7.7430)
SFr	1.8397	(1.8380)
Yen	164.05	(164.93)
£ Index	83.7	(83.9)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.5004*	(1.4978)
FFr	5.0995*	(5.0995)
SFr	1.2170*	(1.2114)
Yen	108.54*	(108.33)
$ Index	96.7	(96.4)
Tokyo close Yen 108.30		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jun)	$19.80	($19.30)
GOLD		
London close	$394.65	($396.15)

* denotes midday trading price

Japan plea

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday urged Japan to open up its telecommunications market and called for greater urgency in deregulating the economy. He made his plea on a visit to Tokyo to promote British exports and to encourage more Japanese investors to come to Britain.
Page 26

Smurfit caution

Jefferson Smurfit, Europe's largest packaging group, warned investors of weak demand for some products and of a threat from increasing paper supplies from the US. The Irish group reported record profits.
Page 27, Tempus 28

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TIM 11/4

EU launches $1.3bn aid for small business

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Union unveiled a $1.3 billion financial aid package for small businesses yesterday as part of plans to combat the high unemployment that persists across Europe. The aid is part of a plan by Jacques Santer, President of the EU Commission, to increase the jobs created across Europe.

Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the EU's Finance Commissioner, said the objective was to create 30.000 jobs a year with loan guarantees that help small businesses get credit at lower rates of borrowing. Priority will be given to companies with fewer than 50 employees. M de Silguy said at the launch of the scheme that such firms are essential to employment growth, but often have problems securing adequate financing because banks consider them a relatively high credit risk.

He said the money to cover the aid package will come from the Luxembourg-based European Investment Fund. But the plan must first be approved by all 15 member governments of the EU. The European Investment Fund will stand behind 50 per cent of the total value of most loans. For companies investing in crossborder projects involving more than one EU member, 75 per cent of a loan may be covered.

M Santer says reducing the European Union's 11 per cent jobless rate is the top priority. He has called a "social summit" of European business and labour leaders this month to seek common ground on how best to get the 18 million unemployed back to work.

M Santer aims to persuade reluctant governments to transfer $2.5 billion in surplus Union funds to support labour-intensive public works projects and industrial research efforts.

Last year, the European Investment Fund used about 12 per cent of $1.7 billion in loan guarantees for smaller businesses across Europe. The fund was established in 1994 at a summit of European Union leaders in Edinburgh to promote economic growth.

Its main objective is to support financing for a series of trans-European transport and energy projects. The European Commission has a 30 per cent stake in the fund. About 40 per cent is held by the European Investment Bank, the EU's long-term lending arm. The rest is shared among 70 financial institutions.

Lang urges Japanese to open up telecoms

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

IAN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday urged Japan to open up its telecommunications market and called for greater urgency in deregulating the economy.

Speaking on the second day of a visit to Japan to promote British exports and encourage more Japanese investors to come to Britain, Mr Lang told journalists he would like to see deregulation "go further and faster".

He conveyed a similar message to Ichiro Hino, Post and Telecommunications Minister. Mr Lang welcomed a recent promise to ease restrictions on foreign investment in telecommunications in 1997 and expressed hope that such reforms would be expanded.

Most British equipment makers and service providers are excluded from Japan's telecoms market by NTT, the domestic telephone monopoly. Mr Lang believes that only persistent pressure by foreign governments on Japan to deregulate will win access to closed sectors such as telecoms and insurance. Many Japanese business leaders share this view, acknowledging that their government will cut red tape and regulations only if the US and Europe apply strong pressure.

In this spirit, the Keidanren, Japan's equivalent of the Confederation of British Industry, gave Mr Lang a platform to address 150 businessmen on the British experience of deregulation. Mr Lang said that deregulation and a commitment to free and open international markets had transformed Britain's economy. The Japanese were invited to follow Britain's example and overcome the rigidities in their economy. Mr Lang added that "a more deregulated market will encourage British firms to play a more active role in the economic success of Japan".

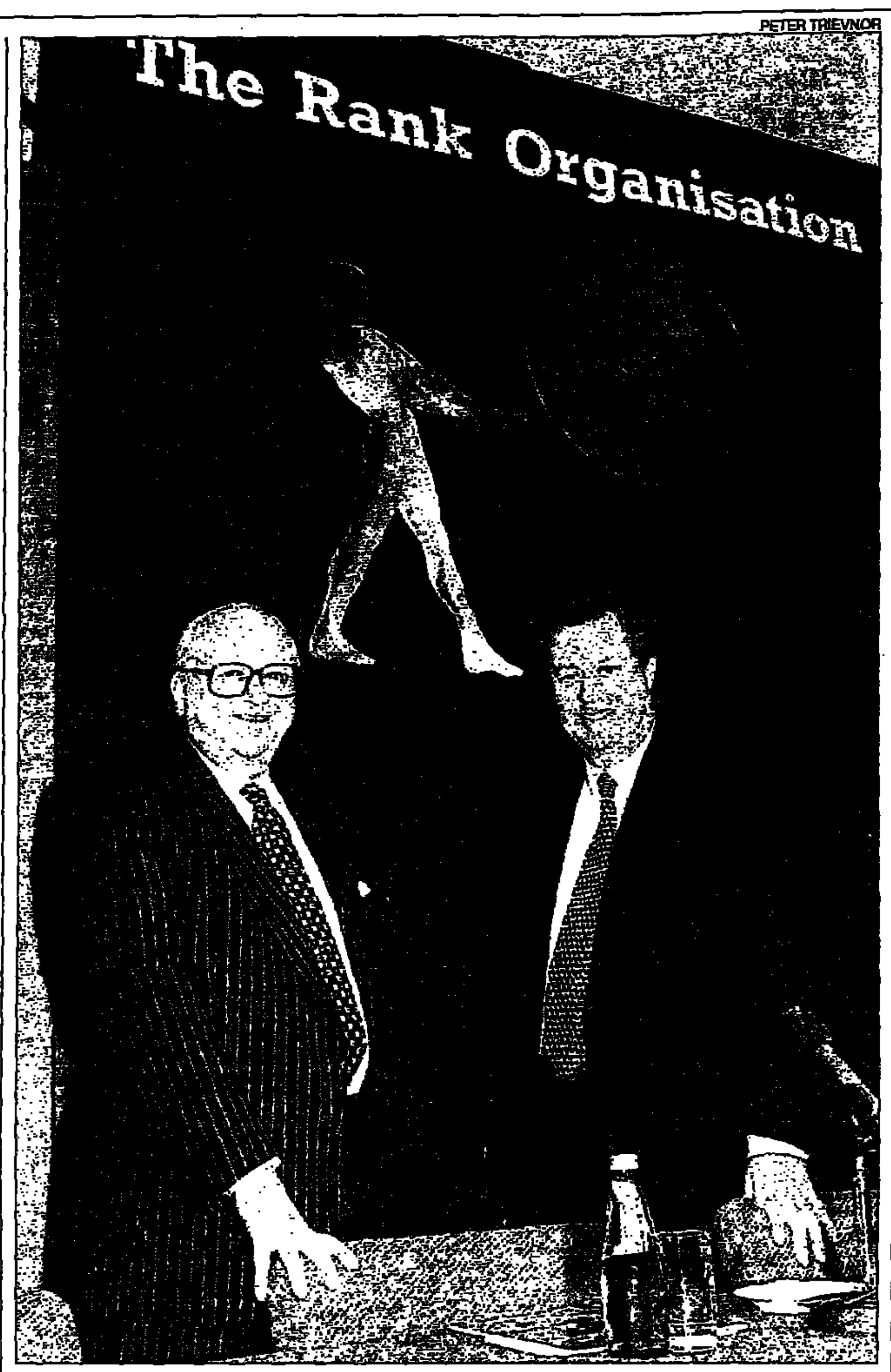
The message makes a change from commercial diplomacy of the past 20 years, when British ministers visiting Tokyo have concentrated all their energies on specific irritants, such as barriers to Scotch whisky, with few visible results.

Evidence of Japan's growing taste for imports came in figures released by the Finance Ministry yesterday. These showed that Japan's current account surplus fell nearly 40 per cent in February, to Y745.9 billion (£4.5 billion), from 1.22 trillion yen a year earlier. "The pace of the fall in the surplus was faster than the Government had anticipated," a senior Finance Ministry official said. "Japan's import and industrial structures have changed to an unexpected degree."

Managers buy Coal operation

BRITISH Coal Enterprise (BCE) has sold its business funding operation to Coalfield Investments, a management buyout team led by Bill Furness and Gordon Machej.

The operation was set up in 1984 to help provide funding for businesses in coalfield areas. Its last published accounts, at the end of March last year, show the net book value of its loan portfolio, after provisions, was £10 million. The gross value is around £20 million. It has assisted 5.000 businesses since 1984 and has 2.000 loans outstanding. Coalfield Investments has financial backing from BancBoston Capital, part of the Bank of Boston.



Expansion minded: Sir Denys Henderson, left, and Andrew Teare, yesterday

Growth hopes lift Rank

BY ERIC REGULY

SHARES of Rank, the entertainment and leisure group, rose yesterday after it said trading prospects in this financial year are encouraging. At the company's annual meeting, Sir Denys Henderson, chairman, said: "Overall, we have laid the foundations for a profitable expansion in years to come."

The shares finished at 513p, up 6p. Earlier, the company reported a 6 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £407 million in the year to December 31.

Rank has sold a 40 per cent stake in Rank Xerox to Xerox Corp for £620 million and has completed the disposal of the Royal Garden, the last of its business hotels, for £66 million. It will use the proceeds to invest in the leisure and entertainment industries. Andrew Teare, chief executive, plans to expand its British, Spanish and Canadian bingo clubs and open more Oasis Village holiday centres and Hard Rock Cafe restaurants.

Rank is also considering listing its shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Pennington Page 27

Company spending boost for economy

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NEAR-RECORD levels of growth in business investment in February were yesterday hailed as a tangible sign of better economic prospects ahead by the Finance & Leasing Association, which released its latest figures.

The FLA reported that demand for finance to buy plant and equipment in February was 63 per cent higher than the same month a year ago. This is the second highest year-on-year increase since Britain began to pull out of recession in early 1992.

Martin Hall, the FLA's Director-General, said: "We are very encouraged by the latest set of industry figures. They confirm the upward trend in investment hinted at in January. At last, the recovery seems to be gathering pace."

Demand for finance to buy big ticket items, a category that covers capital projects worth over £5 million, jumped by 291 per cent from a year ago to £317 million. Finance for other plant and equipment — excluding cars — grew by 24 per cent from a year ago to total £600 million.

Demand for credit from consumers was also improved. Retail instalment credit reached record highs after a 72 per cent jump to £162 million. Demand for new car finance was up 5 per cent at £307 million, the seventh consecutive monthly rise.

Extra cash found for Maxwell creditors

BY JON ASHWORTH

CREDITORS of Maxwell Communication Corporation (MCC) are to receive a fourth dividend, of 3.5p in the pound, taking the total paid to 34.5p in the pound, or about £725 million. Price Waterhouse, administrator of MCC, expects the total to settle at between 38p and 43p in the pound, ignoring recoveries from pending legal actions.

Actions are outstanding against a range of parties, including Coopers & Lybrand, MCC's auditor, and various private Maxwell companies. Claims against underwriters in connection with a fidelity insurance policy, covering alleged dishonesty by Maxwell employees, have been the subject of a preliminary hearing in London.

MCC owed about $3 billion to creditors, mainly banks, when it was declared insolvent in 1991. More than $1 billion has been raised from sales involving the 400 companies under MCC.

Mark Homan, senior joint administrator of MCC, said various mopping up activities remained. Funds have been retained in America towards possible liabilities. Provisions against tax are expected to be freed soon, and dividends from subsidiary companies are likely to flow through.

Professional fees have topped $71 million, about half of that on solicitors and other advisers. A further $28 million has gone on litigation and investigating potential law suits for recovery.

The fourth dividend will be paid to creditors on April 18.

US banks test card to oust cash

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

FOUR of America's biggest financial institutions are combining to introduce smartcards that are designed to replace everyday cash transactions by using memory chips.

Citicorp and Chase Manhattan, America's two largest banks, are linking with Visa and Mastercard, the two leading credit card groups, to develop and market a smartcard that will eventually be accepted nationwide. The companies say that their alliance is necessary to achieve the critical mass required for the card to gain general acceptance among the public.

The partners will test their card on Manhattan's Upper West Side, an affluent middle-class neighbourhood, with 50.000 customers and 500 retailers. If the scheme is successful, it will be extended in the New York area with the eventual aim of spreading it across the US.

The experiment mimics a scheme in the UK, where the more sophisticated Mondex smartcard has had disappointing results in attracting residents of Swindon.

Smartcards hold huge attractions for banks, which want to cut the huge sums they spend on handling cash.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

China to buy 30 jets from Airbus

CHINA last night confirmed a £1.5 billion order for 30 A320 passenger jets from Airbus Industrie, the European consortium in which British Aerospace holds a 20 per cent stake. The order marks a strategic breakthrough in the world's fastest-growing aircraft market, which has previously been dominated by Boeing and McDonnell Douglas of the United States. Airbus calculates that during the next 18 years the Chinese are likely to order 1,320 airliners worth $100 billion to meet passenger growth of up to 10 per cent a year as the economy takes off.

Li Peng, the Chinese Premier, signed the contract to acquire the 30 aircraft on a visit to Paris. With 150 seats each, the A320s are considered ideal for short to medium-haul flights between Chinese cities. Wings for the aircraft will be made at Chester, while final assembly will take place in Hamburg, Germany. To support its Chinese sales campaign, Airbus, owned jointly by BAe, Aerospatiale of France, Daimler-Benz of Germany and Casa of Spain, has built a $50 million maintenance centre in Beijing. China also confirmed an order for three long-haul A340 aircraft. At present, Chinese carriers operate just 27 Airbus planes.

BAT disposal blocked

AMERICA'S Federal Trade Commission has rejected a plan by BAT Industries to divest six discount cigarette brands to Lorillard Tobacco Co, a subsidiary of Loews Corp. The FTC expressed concern that Lorillard would not compete aggressively in the discount cigarette market and that it may lead to closure of a cigarette plant in North Carolina. BAT now must find a new buyer for the assets. The FTC has ordered BAT to divest itself of its discount brands, the Reidsville plant and three full-revenue brands.

German jobless at 4.1m

UNEMPLOYMENT in Germany fell in March, from 11.1 per cent to 10.8 per cent of the active population, although seasonally adjusted figures given by the Federal Labour Office showed a slight rise. The total number looking for work was 4.141 million, compared to 4.27 million in February, which was a post-war high. In west Germany, the jobless fell 92,300 to 2.868 million. In eastern Germany, it fell by 36,800 to 1.273 million. After correction for seasonal variations, the figures showed a rise in unemployment of 26,000.

Crossair flights to soar

CROSSAIR, the Swiss regional carrier, is planning 124,000 flights during 1996, up 84 per cent on 1995. The Swissair subsidiary said expansion and accompanying efficiency gains are expected to underpin a "significant rise" in 1996 profits. The company yesterday announced net profits of Sfl7.5 million (£9.52 million) for 1995, up from Sfl6.1 million in 1994. During the first quarter this year, the low-point of the travel season, Crossair lost Sf7.4 million. Moritz Suter, chief executive said this was Sf1.1 million better than expected.

Signet sale progress

SIGNET GROUP, the former Ratners jewellery business, yesterday said plans to sell its Ernest Jones and H Samuel chains were progressing but that no deal was likely to be struck in the immediate future. Signet, which also owns Sterling in America, put its UK jewellery operations up for sale in January. The disposals could realise up to £300 million, which will help to reduce the group's £350 million of debt. This would help profitability as the group is weighed down by hefty interest bills.

Zeneca breakthrough

THE agrochemicals division of Zeneca, the pharmaceuticals and chemicals group, yesterday received approval to sell Amistar, its new fungicide, in Germany. Amistar is to be used to control fungal diseases in cereal crops such as wheat, barley and rye. It was approved by the German authorities in a relatively short 16 months. Zeneca estimated that the market for cereal crop fungicides in Germany is worth $320 million a year, or about 6 per cent of the world market.

US airline sues GEC

AMERICA'S United Airlines is taking legal action against GEC, alleging breach of a £50 million contract to supply in-flight entertainment equipment to United's Boeing 777 fleet. GEC-Marconi Inflight Systems (GMIS), the GEC subsidiary that was to supply the equipment, said it would be instructing lawyers to defend the proceedings and pursue "appropriate claims on its behalf for the recovery of substantial amounts due from United Airlines". GMIS said United was insisting on the continued use of the GMIS systems already installed.

Record lending at ICG

INTERMEDIATE Capital Group, the provider of mezzanine finance, reported a record year for lending in 1995, with a £33 million increase in the loan book to £210 million. Clients last year included Wightlink, Meccano, Lloyd's List, Automotive Products and Coal Products. ICG's profits rose to £19.1 million before tax from £18.1 million, lifting earnings to 27.6p a share from 26.3p. There is a final dividend of 9.1p a share, making a total of 13.4p, up from 11.5p previously. The shares rose 1p to 353p.

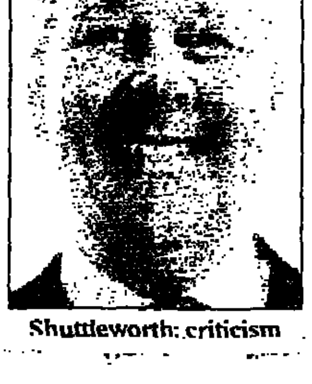
Headlam advances

HEADLAM GROUP, the floorcovering and fabrics distribution company, defied difficult trading conditions to lift pre-tax profits to £7.7 million from £5.8 million in 1995. Earnings were 12.8p a share, rising from 10.1p. There is a final dividend of 3.6p a share, lifting the total to 4.8p from 4p. The shares rose 15p to 248p yesterday. Ian Kirkham, chief executive, said the current year had started well. There were signs of a selective recovery in consumer spending, which created a more buoyant feeling among customers.

Protests expected at special meeting over Abbey takeover

Bitter victory awaits N&P

BY SARA MCCONNELL



Shuttleworth: criticism

THE 1.4 million members of the National & Provincial Building Society are today expected to vote overwhelmingly in favour of being taken over by Abbey National, the building society turned bank.

But the N&P board, chaired by Lord Shuttleworth, is bracing itself for a barrage of criticism from angry members objecting to the takeover, either on principle or because they have been excluded from bonus payouts which could total up to £4,750 per member. The majority of N&P's one million savers and 400,000 borrowers who want to vote will already have done so by post. Others are expected at Manchester's 10,000-seat Nynex Centre for the society's special general meeting, many to register their protest in person.

Complaints made to *The Times* about the takeover centre on the failure of N&P branches to warn members that withdrawing money or changing accounts after the takeover announcement could exclude them from payouts. Longstanding members are also angry that many people who opened accounts in response to takeover speculation this time last year will get a payout while they are excluded.

Brian Murphy, the building societies ombudsman, this week promised to press for wider powers to deal with the complaints of excluded members. He has been inundated with complaints from members of the Cheltenham & Gloucester, Halifax and Leeds as well as the N&P.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.02	1.86
Austria Sch	17.07	15.57
Belgium Fr	49.93	45.63
Canada $	2.175	2.015
Cyprus Cyp£	0.754	0.699
Denmark Kr	9.43	8.63
Finland Mkk	7.71	7.06
France Fr	8.18	7.53
Germany Dm	2.44	2.23
Greece Dr	390.00	365.00
Hong Kong $	12.41	11.41
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1800	[illegible]
Italy Lira	2502.00	2347.00
Japan Yen	179.60	163.60
Malta	0.584	0.539
Netherlds Gld	2.705	2.475
New Zealand $	2.38	2.16
Norway Kr	10.47	9.67
Portugal Esc	246.50	228.00
S Africa Rd	6.65	6.05
Spain Pta	198.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	10.90	10.10
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	114019	106019
USA $	1.619	1.489

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday

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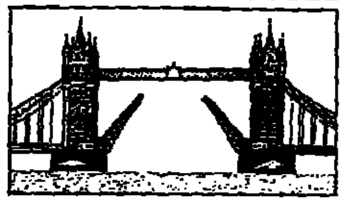
هكذا من الاصل

☐ Rail privatisation still on track ☐ No ifs and buts over ERM ☐ Wall Street quote for Rank?

Salmon leaps

PENNINGTON



☐ ROGER SALMON'S early departure, an unusual concept in railway history, does not signal that the rail revolution he has played so great a part in realising, is in trouble. Far from it. Unlikely as it may seem, rail privatisation has built up steam and is on its way out of the station, travelling with too much momentum for Labour to have the courage to recall it.

In a sense, the franchise director's task changed in mid-stream. At the start, it focused on putting the 25 train operators into the private sector, with the safety factor that Railtrack, their main supplier, stayed in state hands. The priority changed to getting enough services out of British Rail fast enough to underwrite Railtrack's own sale. This task is done.

Franchising is well behind ministers' desired schedule, but many of the important franchises have been agreed or are on the way. By the time the long-serving Rothschild director quits the public arena he finds so uncomfortable, new franchising exercises will be suffering from election blight.

To get the train moving, Mr Salmon has had to ladle out largesse from taxpayers in amounts that are likely to prove embarrassing in retrospect. He has also had to make life easier for train operators to keep the subsidies within some bounds. This meant persuading the rail regulator to abandon competition, which was originally one of the lynchpins of rail reform. It also meant taking so generous a view of minimum service that the courts intervened. Ministers had to issue lax new instructions to match.

By now, it is hard to remember when nobody wanted a rail franchise. But that was only 18 months ago. Had that persisted, Mr Salmon's job would have been impossible. As he admits, the structure has changed so much that there is no way of knowing what a reasonable subsidy might be. So the franchise director had to rely on there being competing bids and that meant being financially friendly and generous to potential bidders.

As a merchant banker dedicated to striking deals, Mr Salmon became a *bête noir* for Labour. An incoming Labour government can live with the Whitehall-honed subtleties of John Swift, the rail regulataor. But the franchise directorate is so anathema to the Opposition, and Mr Salmon so temperamentally out of sympathy, that Labour aims to abolish his post and hand what is left back to the rump of British Rail. That makes Opraf a ship worth jumping even if its job is nearing port.

Even if Mr Salmon had stayed, it would have been many years before taxpayers could work out whether he did a good job. Certainly not until the first contracts have been worked out, an average of more than seven years after they were let. At this stage, it is a fair guess that taxpayers will not be the winners. Nothing in Labour's plans is likely to change that.

Gentlemen are wary of Verona

☐ EUROS are going soft even before they are issued. When EU finance ministers gather in Verona today, they will find that the argument has changed radically since it became clear that the European currency would be anything but single.

Italians and Belgians still rely on being counted in at the door, whatever the rules say, and who can be sure they are wrong. Brussels, Paris and Berlin are now assuming, however, that the Euro will start as a minority EU currency. The psychological shift this produces is only now beginning to show up. The City of London used to be afraid that sterling would be left out and marginalised. No more. Instead, founding euro-users are afraid. They will lose national flexibility but may gain relatively little in exchange.

French, German and Dutch businesses are afraid less of each other than of Italian, British or non-EU rivals. Hence the pressure to corral Kenneth Clarke and the rest into a new exchange-rate mechanism under the suzereinty of the European central bank where they could be legally obliged to obey "single" currency rules. Outsiders would be crazy to agree, unless they see themselves simply as cadet members of the euro bloc.

The fewer countries convert to the euro, the more it is likely to be like an *ersatz* mark, to the continuing discomfort of France, but the relief of business in Italy, Spain *et al*, which suffered mark strength until 1993. If weaker brethren were inside, the euro would be weaker and comfortable to the French and Benelux economies. But this would not apply if Latin currencies were stuck in the outer circle.

If the euro is narrowly-based, however, it may also be distorted by use as a parallel currency in non-member states. This would present the European central bank with money management problems much bigger than the Bundesbank encountered as the mark became international.

Perhaps Nigel Lawson's dream that sterling could compete successfully with the mark would then become realistic. Being flexible could earn lower interest rates, not just be a device to keep industry competitive. No wonder Verona is famed for obscure plots.

Gifford gives up the gong

☐ RANK'S annual meeting, presided over by Sir Denys Henderson, former chairman of ICI, marked the end of Michael Gifford's 12-year reign as chief executive. Gifford's style was to duck the limelight on the basis that Rank's results should speak for themselves; an attitude that went down well with City institutions which account for an extraordinarily high 96 per cent of Rank's equity.

In the space of six years, Gifford, determined to refocus Rank, sold some £400 million worth of businesses, representing 70 per cent of the asset base. Acquisitions between 1986 and 1990 amounted to some £1.3 billion, culminating in the £900 million purchase of Mecca in 1990. Some £140 million was expended on video duplication and film laboratory operations in the US, niche operations in which Rank, dominant in UK cinemas, holidays and bingo, has also emerged as market leader. During Gifford's reign, pre-tax profits rose from £69 million to £407 million, on turnover up from £743 million to £2.3 billion. Market capitalisation has, aptly, risen more than 12 times to £4.2 billion.

Gifford is succeeded by Andrew Teare, the former chief executive of English China Clays. Expansion is under way on both sides of the Atlantic, courtesy of the £620 million raised last year from the sale of the 40 per cent stake in Rank Xerox. Rank's ambitious association with Universal Studios Florida could well signal a Wall Street quote. Little more than 6 per cent of Rank's stock is currently held in the US.

Waiting for the tip

☐ IT'S an ill wind. Sir Rocco remains chairman of Forte plc solely because Granada won its takeover bid. If the Forte family had won, the former chairman and chief executive was pledged to vacate the chair in favour of Anthony Tennant. As it is, he is staying in his seat until Granada has agreed the cheque. Sir Rocco, of all people, will surely not be put off if the waiters put the chairs on the tables around him.

PETER TRIEVNOR

A WORLD LEADER IN PACKAGING

Dermot Smurfit, left, and Gerry Fagan, finance director, are aware that destocking and oversupply are worrying analysts

Smurfit gives a warning as profits leap by 250%

By Carl Mortished

JEFFERSON SMURFIT, the Irish packaging group, gave warning of weak demand for some of its products and a threat from increasing paper supplies from the United States as it reported a record pre-tax profit of Ir£420 million, a 250 per cent increase over the result in 1994.

Smurfit shares were unmoved by the profits which Dermot Smurfit, deputy chairman, described as an outstanding and "an all-time high for an Irish company." However, signs of a price squeeze from destocking and oversupply of linerboard are leading City packaging analysts to forecast a fall in the company's earnings.

Last year, earnings increased 233 per cent to 28p and the dividend for the year is 4p, up 50 per cent on 1994. The company is proposing a scrip dividend alternative.

Smurfit gave warning that the build-up of inventories was being worsened by weak demand for corrugated containers and increasing supply from new investment.

The company said: "We are in for a period of weak pricing until demand catches up with the new higher capacity of our industry.' Mr Smurfit said that cheap American kraftliner — linerboard made from virgin pulp — was being dumped in southern Europe, depressing prices.

He said that a shutdown by some producers for a month would remove the stock build-up but he said his company "was not predicting a strong pick-up".

Smurfit's profits for 1995 benefited from a full year contribution from Cellulose du Pin, the French company acquired for Ir 684 million in 1994, and price increases. In June, the company bought Les Papeteries du Limousin and a stake in Munksjö, a Swedish pulp and paper company.

Aside from acquisitions, Smurfit spent Ir£147 million on the business last year but Mr Smurfit said capital expenditure would fall in the current year "south of Ir£100 million."

Profit in mainland Europe rose from Ir£34 million to Ir£195 million last year, thanks to the Cellulose deal, while sharp increases in prices helped Smurfit's paper reclamation plants and mills. Later in the year, prices fell and customers delayed orders, causing downtime in the mills.

In the US, profits grew from Ir£13 million to Ir£146 milion but waste paper prices were volatile and Smurfit shut down its mills to reduce excessive inventories.

Mr Smurfit said the company had no intention of splitting the roles of chairman and chief executive, currently both occupied by Michael Smurfit. "We think it is right that they are combined," he said but indicated the company is appointing a chief operating officer. It is expected the candidate will emerge from within the company.

Tempus, page 28

Moss Bros at five-year high

By Sarah Bagnall

MOSS BROS shares rose 36p to a five-year high of 795p after the specialist menswear retailer reported a better than expected profits and a 50 per cent increase in the annual dividend.

Pre-tax profits rose 53 per cent from £7.4 million to a record £11.3 million in the year to January 27, on the back of a 23 per cent rise in sales to £87.5 million.

Stripping out the benefits of the 22 new stores opened during the year, like-for-like sales rose 9 per cent. The specialist menswear group ended the year with 128 shops, of which 54 traded under the Savoy Taylors Guild banner, 57 as the Suit Company and the balance as Cecil Gee.

Rowland Gee, managing director, said that the group planned to open up to 50 new stores over the next three years, as well as expanding existing sites. Capital expenditure is expected to fall from £7.5 million to £5 million in the current year.

The group ended the year with cash balances of £20.3 million. Mr Gee would not comment on a rumoured Moss Bros bid for Austin Reed beyond saying: "We have plenty to do as the business is currently constituted."

The final dividend was lifted from 9p to 13p, making a total for the year of 18p, up from 12p. The dividend, due May 31, is being paid out of earnings of 42.5p a share, up from 27.83p last time.

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Rentokil set to raise BET offer

By Eric Reguly

Clark: critical

RENTOKIL is today expected to raise its bid for BET, the business services group, by 10p to 25p a share in an effort to win its hostile takeover battle.

Rentokil has until Friday to raise its £1.9 billion offer, but analysts said it probably would move earlier to give it more time to complete the underwriting. The company has offered nine new Rentokil shares plus £8 in cash for every 20 BET shares. At yesterday's prices — Rentokil was off 5p to 363p while BET lost ½p to 207½p — the bid values BET shares at about 202p.

Some institutional shareholders are expecting a tight fight if Rentokil opts to raise its bid by only 10p or 15p. Said one: "That would not be enough for us. If they pitch it that low, there would be a genuine question of whether it would be accepted."

The shareholder said he valued BET at 225p to 250p a share. BET's share price, however, indicates that investors do not expect the new bid to be pitched within that range.

In its defence, BET forecast a 28 per cent rise in full-year profits to £142 million before tax, and committed to raise its dividend by 27.5 per cent to 5.1p. It also predicted a 10 per cent rise in group turnover to £1.94 billion.

John Clark, chief executive of BET, has said that the offer "seems to be a desperate attempt by Rentokil to use BET's superior growth to maintain its own targets at BET shareholders' expense."

Yule Catto payout rises 14%

By Paul Durman

YULE CATTO, the speciality chemicals group, has maintained its strong track record by lifting annual pretax profits by 16 per cent to £33.1 million.

Lord Catto, chairman, was optimistic about this year's prospects: "With the usual vigilance on costs and the sustained motivation of our employees, we expect once more to drive higher profits from our operations."

He said the group had done well to overcome widely fluctuating raw material prices. Many of its chemical companies still managed to increase their market share.

Yule Catto is paying a final dividend of 4.8p, raising the total by 14 per cent to 8p a share.

Alpha fears over Granada stake sale

By Marianne Curphey

ALPHA AIRPORTS, the inflight catering and retail group in which Granada has a 25 per cent stake, said yesterday it was keen to remain an independent company but that a takeover was "an outstanding possibility".

Richard Gold, Alpha's finance director, said: "It is an open secret that Granada wants to sell its stake and has appointed Lazards as an adviser. Although we have had no formal talks with Granada, we expect to hear from them in the next month or two.

"Our preference is to remain independent, but with a 25 per cent stake available in the open marketplace we realise there is an opportunity for a strategic buyer. That could not take place without the agreement of the Alpha board."

Mr Gold is to retire next month and will be replaced by Stuart Siddal. Alpha's pre-tax profit of £20.6 million, for the 12 months to January 31, disappointed the City, which had been expecting figures closer to the £21.4 million of 1994-95.

Turnover was up 16 per cent to £552.9 million after acquisitions which included DynAir, the US aviation services group, in August last year. DynAir's six-month contribution helped to offset costs in the US and France.

In the UK, despite increases in activity and passenger numbers, some of Alpha's clients reduced their spending on passenger catering, which affected profit margins.

Earnings per share were down slightly in 1994-95 to 9.25p from 10.3p, but the total dividend rises to 5p from 4.6p, with a final 3.25p.

Tempus, page 28

Redland close to Braas deal

By Paul Durman

REDLAND, the building materials group, is close to a deal on the restructuring of its European roof tiling business.

The company plans to combine its tiling interests in the United Kingdom, France, Benelux and Spain into Braas, the German tile maker in which Redland holds a 51 per cent stake. An agreement with Braas family shareholders is expected within the month.

Redland is thought to want to raise its stake in Braas to 60 per cent, the maximum the Braas family will allow. Braas will become Europe's largest tiling business, with annual sales of £1.3 billion.

Redland is also close to selling its UK brick-making business, with the venture capitalist CINVen and Wienerberger, the Austrian brick company, regarded as the favourites to buy.

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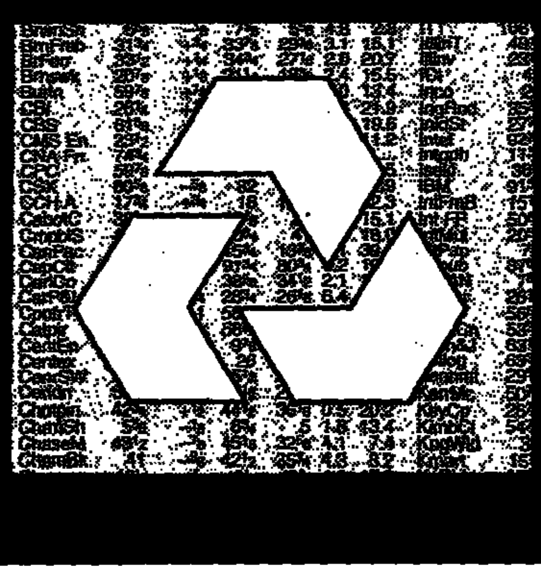

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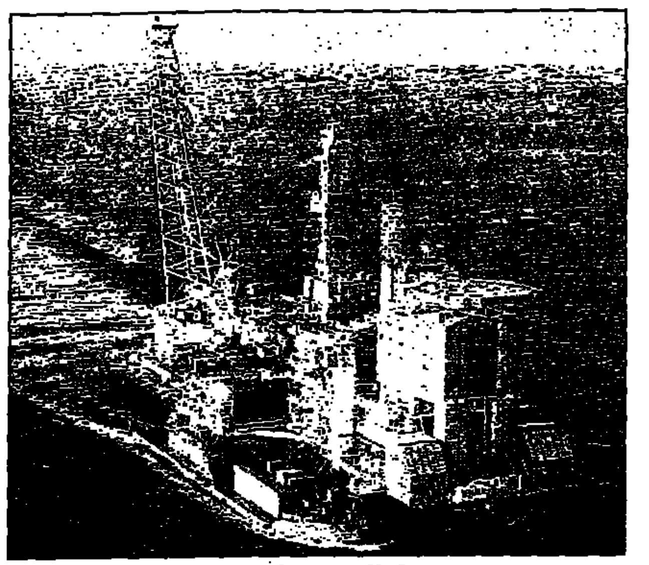
COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

CBI survey helps shares resume an upward path

TAKEOVER talk and hopes of a return of the "feel-good" factor allowed shares to resume their upward path. A relatively upbeat CBI Distributive Trades Survey saw the FT-SE 100 index come within nearly six points of its all-time closing high of 3,781.3, achieved on February 2.



Dearer Brent crude sent oil shares surging

The CBI survey showed a more moderate rate of growth in spite of six successive year-on-year increases in retail sales, though annual retail sales are expected to strengthen next month.

Sentiment was also boosted by firmer bonds and Tuesday's mortgage rate cuts by the Nationwide and Yorkshire Building Societies. There was also persistent bid speculation, with a number of takeover stories and intensifying rumours about the Bristol & West Building Society, which recently appointed Morgan Stanley and Rothschild, the merchant banks, as advisers.

The early gains faded but a steady start on Wall Street, after Tuesday's overnight retreat, helped reinforce sentiment in late London trading. The FT-SE 100 index ended 8.8 points higher at 3,767.4. Volume, boosted by a reported BZW buy program, reached 797.3 million shares.

Consumer sectors set the trend, with stores, breweries and building-related shares among the best performers.

Brewers got a boost from Cazenove, the stockbroker, which was said to be particularly positive on **Grand Metropolitan**, up 4p at 426p. **Guinness** added 1p to 461p, **Matthew Clark** 10p to 738p, **Greene King** 8p to 652p, **Whitbread** 11p to 706p, **Vaux** 7p to 284p and **Scottish & Newcastle** 8p to 657p.

Among building-related stocks, **Wolseley** jumped 15p to 454p, **RMC** 20p to £10.22, **Pilkington** 6p to 212p, **Blue Circle** 5p to 355p and **George Wimpey** 4p to 144p. Among retailers, **Marks & Spencer** rose 9½p to 436½p, **Kingfisher** 11p to 582p and **Moss Bros** 36p to 795p after a good set of results.

Oil shares jumped after the Brent crude price surged through the $21 a barrel level, reaching a 45-month high for front-month Brent. **BP** rose 6½p to 586p on volume of 20 million shares, **Shell** 7p to 878p, **Enterprise** 5p to 450p and **Cairn Energy** 4p to 248p.

Banks were also in the spotlight, stimulated by the merger talks between UBS and Crédit Suisse, the two Swiss finance houses. This focused renewed speculative interest on domestic takeover favourites including **Royal Bank of Scotland**, up 13p to 504p, **Standard Chartered**, 13p higher at 650p, and **Mercury Asset Management**, 28½p stronger at 916p.

Mirror Group rose 12p to 232p, on volume of 13.6 million shares, lifted by late rumours of a bid from **Carlton**, up 6p to 482p.

The water sector was a dull market after the Government sold its remaining shares in six of the water companies to SBC Warburg. **Anglian**, where 2.6 million shares were sold, dipped 9p to 584p, **Thames**, where 3.5 million shares were sold, fell 15p to 563p, **Southern**, where 1.2 million shares were unloaded, eased 2p to 739p, **Yorkshire**, where 1.5 million were sold, lost 7p to 679p, **United Utilities**, where 2.7 million changed hands, fell 5p to 585p and **Hyder (Welsh)**, where 900,000 shares were sold, eased 2p to 741p.

Elsewhere, shares in **Cortecs International**, the biotechnology and medical diagnostics group, continued to defy gravity, surging to 323p, before ending 23p higher at 310p. The latest rise for the shares, which have virtually doubled since the start of the year and have risen more than seven-fold in the past year, was driven by news of successful clinical trials for the company's osteoporosis drug.

Headlam, the distributor of carpets and curtains, jumped 15p to 248p after reporting a 33 per cent rise in profits, while bumper profits and scrip proposals helped **Sentry Farming** surge 44p to 218p.

Granada, which has enjoyed a strong run, eased 1p to 793p after the company said it is increasingly confident of its ability to deliver its £100 million profit improvement plan at Forte. **Rank Organisation** gained 6p to 513p after telling its annual meeting that trading in the first quarter of the current year has been "satisfactory" in spite of the effects on its bingo business of the National Lottery. Rank said current year prospects are encouraging.

Vickers firmed 4p to 260p after strong sales in the US and Middle East helped it to a 12 per cent rise in worldwide sales of Rolls-Royce motor cars to 396 units in the first quarter of 1996.

Racal Electronics eased 2p to 330p after a modest profit downgrade from ABN Amro Hoare Govett.

Ruberoid, a specialist in waterproofing and protective coatings, slid 8p to 139p after accompanying a modest dip in full-year profits with a warning that the prolonged period of cold weather in Europe at the start of 1996 may prevent first half profits from matching last year's stronger showing.

British Steel dipped 2p to 193½p in the wake of a minor forecast downgrade by Société Générale Strauss Turnbull.

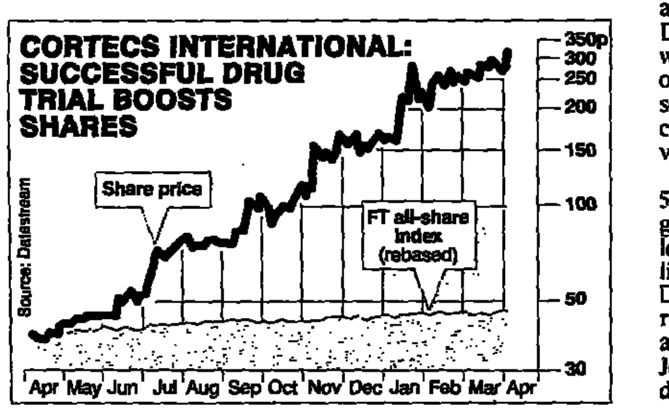
FI Group, the computer software services supplier, made a sparkling debut on its first day's dealings, surging to close at 300p, compared with a placing price of 235p. Volume amounted to 4.31 million shares.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts had another quiet day, but enjoyed modest gains after a firm start on the back of US figures and a slightly encouraging CBI Distributive Trades Survey, which suggested that the rate of growth is slowing. The June series of the long gilt future climbed 6 ticks to £105¹³⁄₃₂, on volume of 35,000 contracts.

Among conventional stocks, 5-year issues added £⅛, while gains stretched to £¼ among longer-dated stocks and index-linked advanced about £½.

☐ **NEW YORK:** US industrials felt the pull of gravity again. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 2.53 points at 5,557.88.

There was renewed talk of a possible bid for Alvis, the defence equipment maker. The shares rose 5p to 168p, on volume of 5.51 million, capitalising Alvis at about £94 million. The favourite to launch a bid for Alvis is GKN, up 8p at 979p, though Vosper Thorneycroft, up 1p to 828p, has also been mentioned.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5557.88 (-2.53)
S&P Composite	641.51 (-0.68)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21791.70 (+47.53)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11077.55 (-29.82)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	544.77 (+7.69)
Sydney:	
AO	2225.4 (+4.4)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2530.02 (+26.76)
Singapore:	
Straits	2389.98 (+7.85)
Brussels:	
General	8927.40 (+52.33)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2093.94 (+12.23)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	771.10 (+3.20)
London:	
FT 30	2802.7 (+7.6)
FT 100	3767.4 (+8.8)
FT-SE Mid 250	4387.1 (+10.0)
FT-SE-A 350	1896.1 (+4.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1643.23 (+10.24)
FT A All-Share	1874.25 (+4.39)
FT Non Financials	1999.26 (+3.90)
FT Fixed Interest	111.87 (+0.06)
FT Govt Secs	92.48 (+0.21)
Bargains	34746
SEAQ Volume	797.6m
USM (Datastrm)	210.15 (-0.03)
US$	1.5168 (-0.0079)
German Mark	2.2735 (-0.0026)
Exchange Index	83.7 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1983
£:SDR	1.0492
RPI	150.9 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	150.2 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Emerg Asia	693	...
Advent VCT	95	...
Aegis Wts	23½	...
British Smaller Co's	95	...
Cambridge Wtr	235	...
Close Brothers VCT	95	...
Dicom Group (270)	308	+ 1
Easynet Gp (100)	105	− 3
FI Group (235)	300	...
First Inf (165)	181	...
Fleming World	52	− 1
Fulmar	195	+ 1
GT Income Gwth Tst	94½	...
Gartmore VCT	96	...
Guinness Flight VCT	95	...
Hill Sml UK (100)	96	...
Hurlingham Props	80	...
ILP Group (75)	83	...
Martne & Merc (125)	123	− 2
Orange (205)	229	+ 1½
Penine AIM VCT	95	...
Perp Inc Gwth (500)	516	+ 3
Quester VCT	95	...
Raphael Zorn (32)	35	+ 2
Scottish Asian C	102	...
Silver Shield Group (3)	3¾	...
Systs Integ Res (115)	121	+ 1
Taverners Trust Uts	513	...
Triad Gp (135)	184	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Abbott Md n/p (460)	76	− 1
Eidos Uts n/p (675)	35	− 10
Fairway Gp n/p (80)	8	...
GWR Uts UL n/p (205)	6	...
Guiness Peat n/p (30)	6	...
VDC n/p (675)	70	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Cortecs	310p (+23p)
Moss Bros	795p (+36p)
Filtronic Com	308p (+13p)
FALLS:	
Wetherspoon JD	907p (-17p)
Siebe	856p (-11p)
Glaxo Wellcome	798p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Surfing with Smurfits

IN the midst of volatile prices, see-sawing demand and the threat of foreign dumping, the one thing that can be relied upon at Jefferson Smurfit is that people called Smurfit will run the company. No matter what anybody else thinks about it.

In fairness, the Smurfits have done a reasonably good job of it. In an industry that is cursed with a boom-and-bust cycle they have achieved compound annual growth of more than 20 per cent over the past 30 years and have not failed to pay a dividend — although some would claim that the payout rate has been miserly in the past.

Unfortunately, there is not much chance of a big dividend rise this year. A year ago, some ventured the hope that this time the paper cycle would be smoother than the previous experience of rocketing prices followed by crashes. Yet, the evidence of recent months suggests the process is accelerating.

While European producers have resisted the temptation to build up capacity, the same is not true in America, where investment in recycled linerboard is eroding the market for Kraftliner, made from virgin pulp. As a result prices have plunged and American product is being dumped below cost in southern Europe, hurting Smurfit's margins.

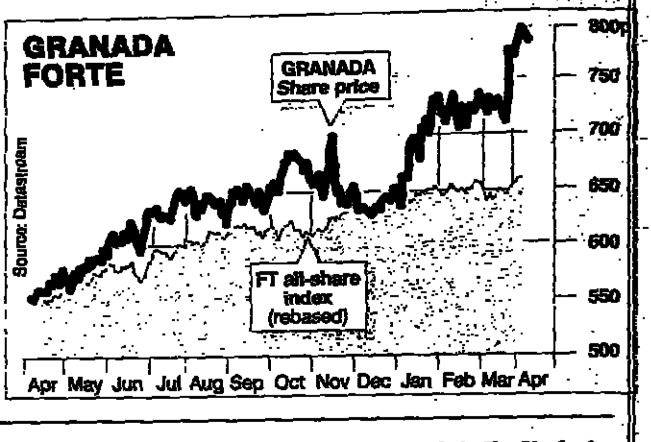
The outlook is grim in the short term with earnings likely to fall by a third this year. Even so, Smurfit's generous dividend cover would allow it to increase the payout. But the margin squeeze will hurt cash flow and Smurfit may prefer to pile up its profits in the hope that a downturn will flush out a good acquisition opportunity. Potential investors should, likewise, save their pennies.

Granada

GRANADA shares shot into orbit on hopes that the gold-plating on the Forte management was to be stripped in the wake of last winter's bid. Rumours that an imminent sale of Forte's Meridien and Exclusive luxury hotel chains also helped to boost the price, but while the former may be true, the latter is not.

Granada has quietly put out the word that posh hotels such as the Waldorf, Grosvenor House and the Savoy are unlikely to be sold soon. In fact, prospectuses have yet to be published. It now appears that only a handful of the properties will be shed by the end of the year and rumours are beginning to circulate that Granada will be a long-term holder of the rest.

Granada insists that nothing is amiss, and that it would risk a fire-sale if it sets a deadline for selling the properties. While that is sensible, it is also clear that bidders are not breaking down Granada's door. Were we in a seller's market, deals would already have been announced and Granada's bosses would be trumpeting to the world that their selling skills are as finely tuned as their bid strategies. Granada needs to shed the hotels in order to repay nearly £4 billion of debt taken on to buy Forte. Running hotels and catering operations in dozens of far-flung countries is a management distraction that it can ill afford. Unless a hotel sale is announced soon, Granada shares could begin to show the strain.



Moss Bros

MOSS BROS is cutting a fine figure. Smart suits are back in fashion and in defiance of consumer gloom, young men are flocking to the shops seeking dark flannels, pinstripes and formal gear.

The group beat expectations yesterday with a 53 per cent leap in pre-tax profits and was justly rewarded with a leap in its share price. Like-for-like sales rose 9 per cent — three times as fast as the market. In the case of suits, Moss Bros claims its market share has risen from 7 to 9 per cent, marking an encouraging advance towards its goal of 15 per cent.

The key question is whether the group's profit recovery is largely over. However, Moss Bros has a long way to go; with sales of just £87.5 million, the firm is a minnow in a mens' clothing market, worth £4 billion. The company has no shortage of cash to fund expansion with £20.3 million in the bank. Plans to open a further 40 to 50 new stores in the next three years, together with a continued tight control on costs, should enable Moss Bros to fit a lot more young men into suits and make a profit.

Gross margins, having risen 5 per cent in the past five years, now stand at 51 per cent and, despite the expansion plans, are not expected to fall. The shares are trading on about 16 times prospective earnings, leaving room for improvement.

Alpha Airports

A YEAR of fierce competition and the effect of a minor spending spree has left Alpha Airports heavily geared and low in cash resources. Airlines have been cost-cutting and catering is one of the first areas to be cut back.

Alpha is still smarting from the loss of its £7.5 million British Airways flight catering contract at JFK airport. The company was unable to match the deal offered by LSG SkyChef, the market leader in the US. As scheduled airlines desert Orly airport for Charles de Gaulle, both Alpha's New York and its Paris flight kitchens are running with excess capacity and losing money. A full restructuring of the catering operations is underway but Alpha admits that it will be 1997 before lower costs and expansion inthe ground and retail services begin to pay off.

Investors who supported last year's £16.8 million share issue at 126p to help buy DynAir, the US baggage handling business, are still feeling the pain. The best hope for investors is that a predator will buy up Granada's 25 per cent stake in Alpha and make a full bid for the group. But it will take a brave bidder to shoulder the burden of its £85 million debtand invest in a sector where margins will remain under intense pressure.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	980-978	Jul	1028-1025
Jul	1003-1002	Sep	unq
Sep	1025-1024	Dec	..
Dec	996-995	Mar	..
Mar	1002-1001		
May	1013-1009		Volume: 3006

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	1884-1881	Jan	1795-1794
Jul	1836-1831	Mar	1778-1775
Sep	1824-1820	May	1760-1750
Nov	1816-1810		Volume: 3531

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	330.5-26.0
Spot: 405.0		Mar	321.5-19.0
May	406.0-04.5	May	316.5-14.0
Aug	395.0-83.5	Aug	unq
Oct	341.5-40.0		Volume: 4590

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 9

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	112.27	182.79	98.98
(+/-)	-3.64	+14.40	-6.19
Eng/Wales:	110.56	190.33	98.64
(+/-)	-3.49	+17.41	-7.94
(%)	-18.0	+10.0	+268.0
Scotland:	140.44	177.10	100.40
(+/-)	+1.39	+9.72	-9.02
(%)	-38.0	-12.0	+231.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	22.35	+1.05
Brent 15 day (May)	21.60	+0.95
Brent 15 day (Jun)	19.80	+0.60
W Texas Intermediate (May)	23.85	+0.75
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	21.80	+0.65

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 223 (+3)	O: 225 (+3)
Gasoil EEC	194 (-7)	196 (-7)
Non EEC 1H Apr	194 (-3)	196 (-3)
Non EEC 1H May	188 (+3)	190 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	109 (+1)	111 (n/c)
Naphtha	302 (+3)	205 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	192.25-90.50	Jul	168.50-68.75
May	183.50-83.75	Aug	164.75-65.00
Jun	174.00-74.50		Vol: 22417

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	21.55-21.58	Aug	17.99 SLR
Jun	19.78-19.80	Sep	17.60 SLR
Jul	18.68 SLR		Vol: 58790

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	123.45	May	110.75
Jul	126.35	Sep	108.70
Sep	114.00	Nov	110.65
Nov	116.70	Jan	111.90
Jan	118.00	Mar	114.00
Volume: 765		Volume: 40	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
May	169.0	165.0
Jun	unq	225.0
Nov	..	105.0
		Volume: 126

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

May 98.50-99.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 96	1460	1445	1458
May 96	1385	1365	1388
Jun 96	1330	1320	1330
Jul 96	1280	1275	1288
Vol: 159 lots		Open Interest: 4513	

Index 1456 -1

(Official) (Volume prev day)	LONDON METAL EXCHANGE		Rudolf Wolff
	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2482.5-2483.5	2480.0-2481.0	1605250
Lead ($/tonne)	834.00-834.50	807.00-808.00	220950
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1052.0-1052.5	1077.0-1077.5	285000
Tin ($/tonne)	6350.0-6360.0	6380.0-6385.0	16320
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1594.0-1594.5	1626.0-1626.5	961425
Nickel ($/tonne)	7930.0-7940.0	8030.0-8040.0	52548

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	460	34½	40½	49½	0	8½	14½
(*494)	500	4	15½	22	8½	27	33½
Argyll	300	23½	30	33½	0	7½	11
(*323)	330	2	12½	18	8½	22½	26
ASDA	100	5½	10	12½	0½	3	5½
(*105½)	110	0	5	7½	5	8	10
Boots	600	8	24	37½	5	23½	30
(*602)	650	0	6½	15	48	59½	63½
Br Airways	500	39	48	54½	0	8½	13½
(*538½)	550	3	17	26½	13½	30½	36
BP	550	35½	44½	54	0	7½	13½
(*585)	600	1½	16	26	16½	28	35
Br Steel	180	14	18	19½	0	6½	9
(*193½)	200	1	6½	9½	7½	18	20
C & W	500	30	41	53½	2½	17	21½
(*528½)	550	2	18	29½	24	40½	47½
CU	550	36½	52	58	0	7½	16½
(*585½)	600	2½	22	30½	16	28	40
ICI	900	18	50½	63½	5	24½	40
(*911½)	950	1	27	39½	39	51	66½
Kingfishr	550	32½	49	62½	0	10½	17
(*581½)	600	2	20½	35	19½	32½	39½
Land Sec	600	27	35	38½	0½	13	17
(*626)	650	0½	8	14	24½	44½	47
M & S	420	16½	24½	31½	1	9	14
(*435½)	460	0	6½	12½	24½	33½	37
Nat West	600	40½	59½	68½	0	10	20
(*639½)	650	3½	29½	40½	14½	30	41½
Sainsbury	360	19½	25½	31½	0	6½	12
(*379)	390	1	8½	16½	11½	24½	28
Shell	850	28	50	61½	1	11	19½
(*877)	900	1½	21½	32½	24	33½	42½
Smkl Bch	650	32	48½	62½	0½	14	21½
(*681)	700	1½	22½	36½	20½	37	45½
Storehse	330	13	23	30½	1	10	14½
(*342)	360	0½	8½	16½	18	26½	30½
Trafalgar	50	0½	3	3	0½	2	2½
(*50)	60	0	0	0½	10	10	10
Unilever	1150	37	66	89½	1	13	30
(*1184½)	1200	5	35	59	17½	33	40½
Zeneca	1400	16	75½	104	15½	48	65½
(*1401½)	1450	5	51½	80	50½	75	92

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met	420	16	25½	36	7½	18½	22
(*425)	460	3	9	19½	35½	43	46
Ladbroke	180	11	20½	25	7½	13	15½
(*183)	200	3½	11½	17	20	24½	27
Utd Bisc	240	11	19½	24	6	11½	15½
(*241½)	260	4	10½	16	19½	23	27

April 10, 1996 Tot: 29598 Calls: 13217 Puts: 16381 FT-SE Calls: 3659 Puts: 6337

*Underlying security price.

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	34	42½	51	0	7	11½
(*533½)	550	1	13½	23½	17	29½	34
Thames W	550	15	27½	34½	2	21	25½
(*562½)	600	0	7½	14½	37½	56½	58½

	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	500	21	38	44½	10	25	29½
(*508)	550	4	16½	23	43	59½	59
BTR	300	22½	30½	33½	1	4	8½
(*320)	330	3½	12½	16½	12	16½	22
Br Aero	850	27	56½	72	21½	37	48½
(*852½)	900	8½	33½	49½	53½	65	76
Br Telcm	360	21½	30	33	4½	15½	20
(*376)	390	5½	14	18	19	32	36
Cadbury	460	34½	47½	54½	3½	10	15½
(*488)	500	10½	29½	32½	19	26½	33
Guinness	420	44	54½	59½	0	4½	8½
(*459)	460	13½	28	34	8½	17	23
GEC	360	22	29½	34½	3	12	15
(*377)	390	5	13½	19½	16½	28	31
Hanson	180	8½	11½	16	2½	6½	11
(*185½)	200	1	3½	8	15	19	23
LASMO	180	10	18½	22½	7½	9½	12½
(*182½)	200	3	10	14	20	21	23½
Lucas	200	13½	19½	25	4	8½	12½
(*211)	220	3	10	13½	14½	18½	23½
Pilkingtn	210	8	15	—	5	11½	—
(*212)	220	1½	7	—	17½	23½	—
Prudential	420	31½	45½	51½	3½	10	15½
(*446)	460	8½	22	29½	20	27	34
Redland	390	10½	19½	26	17½	24½	30½
(*390½)	420	1½	9½	15½	42½	46	50½
R-Royce	220	6½	14½	20	9	14	17
(*220)	240	1½	7	12	24½	27½	29½
Tesco	280	9½	18	22½	7½	14	18½
(*286)	300	2	9½	14½	22	25½	30
Vodafone	240	16	24	30½	4½	11½	15
(*251)	260	5½	14	20½	14½	21½	25
Williams	300	17½	20½	23	4½	7½	12
(*315)	330	2	6½	10	25	26	30

FT-SE INDEX (*3767½)

	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900
Calls						
Apr	119	73	35½	11½	2	1
May	138½	101	69	43½	24½	12½
Jun	161	124½	94	68	48	31
Jul	180½	148	117½	91½	69	51
Dec	—	223½	—	170	—	123½
Puts						
Apr	3½	7½	19	47	91	141
May	19	31	48½	74	106	145½
Jun	39	53	72½	96½	124½	159½
Jul	54	71	90½	115	142	175
Dec	—	124½	—	170	—	223

	Series	Calls Jun	Sep	Dec	Puts Jun	Sep	Dec
Abby Nat	550	31	42	53	14	24½	28½
(*561)	600	10	19½	30½	43½	52½	56
Amstrad	160	22½	28	30½	3	6½	8
(*178)	180	10	16½	19½	10½	14½	16
Barclays	700	51	63½	73½	10	20½	25½
(*733)	750	21½	39½	47	32	44½	49
Blue Circ	330	32½	40½	45½	4½	10½	14
(*354½)	360	14	23	28½	16½	23	27
Br Gas	240	8½	12½	16½	13	16	20½
(*241)	260	2½	6	9½	28½	30½	34
Dixons	460	24	34	44½	14½	25	28
(*465½)	500	8	17	26½	39	48	50½
Forte	343	26	32	—	4½	1½	—
(*366½)	373	6½	12½	—	16½	11½	—
Tarmac	120	9½	14	16½	6	8½	11½
(*125)	130	5	9½	12	11½	14	17
Hillsdwn	160	18	18½	20	3	5	7
(*177½)	180	4½	7	9½	13	15	17½
Lonrho	200	20½	24	29½	3	6	8
(*215½)	220	8½	12½	18	10½	14½	16½
Sears	90	10	12½	13½	1	3	4½
(*99½)	100	3	7	8	5½	7½	9
Thorn	1700	132	162½	186½	28	50	64
(*1790)	1800	74½	106½	133	67	94½	109
Tomkins	240	24	28	31	2½	7	9
(*258½)	260	11	15½	19½	9	16	18
Lloyds TSB	292	35	—	—	2½	—	—
(*320½)	322	15½	—	—	12½	—	—

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	750	49	70½	85½	0	11½	23½
(*798)	800	9½	39	55½	10½	30	45½
HSBC	1000	20	67	86½	8½	39½	56½
(*1011)	1050	2	42½	62	41	66	82½
Reuter	750	22½	52½	67½	3	22½	33½
(*768½)	800	1½	27½	42½	32½	50	58½

	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	360	8	25	32½	4½	15½	23
(*364)	390	0	12	19½	26	33	40

	Series	Jul			Jan		
Fisons	260	5	—	—	0½	—	—
(*265)	280	0	—	—	18½	—	—

	Series	May			May		
Eastrn Gp	950	30½	—	—	0½	—	—
(*975)	1000	0½	—	—	25	—	—

	Series	Jun	Sep	Dec	Jun	Sep	Dec
Natl Pwr	460	34½	37½	45	11	18½	21½
(*482)	500	13	17½	25½	33	39	42½
Scot Pwr	330	30	36	39	4	8½	10½
(*353)	360	11½	17½	22½	13½	22½	25

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 59878	Jun 96	3768.0	3784.0	3759.0	3774.0	10918
	Sep 96	3783.0	3783.0	3783.0	3783.0	10
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3519	Jun 96				4400.0	0
	Sep 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 336282	Jun 96	93.95	93.96	93.94	93.94	8806
	Sep 96	93.76	93.79	93.75	93.76	11221
	Dec 96	93.38	93.41	93.37	93.39	12754
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96					
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1034165	Jun 96	96.80	96.81	96.79	96.80	19475
	Sep 96	96.71	96.75	96.71	96.73	25718
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 121284	Jun 96	105-15	106-25	105-09	105-15	35376
	Sep 96				104-12	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 96	118.90	119.10	118.82	119.03	2097
	Sep 96	117.98	117.98	117.92	117.93	50
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 225791	Jun 96	96.36	96.51	96.24	96.48	113275
	Sep 96				95.62	0
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 20931	Jun 96	95.53	95.57	95.52	95.56	1107
	Sep 96	95.49	95.52	95.49	95.52	394
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 55185	Jun 96	98.18	98.18	98.11	98.13	5273
	Sep 96	98.09	98.09	98.00	98.02	6874
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 44913	Jun 96	110.20	110.50	110.06	110.43	37767
	Sep 96				109.89	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse 6½

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5½ Week fixed: 5¾

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5⅞ : 3 mth 5¹³⁄₁₆. Sell: 2 mth 5¹³⁄₁₆ : 3 mth: 5¾.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5⅞	5⅞-5¹³⁄₁₆	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5⅞	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5⅞	
Sterling Money Rates:	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5¹³⁄₁₆	6-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6⅛-6¹⁄₃₂	6⁵⁄₁₆-6³⁄₁₆
Interbank:	5⁷⁄₈-5¹³⁄₁₆	6-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6³⁄₁₆-6¹⁄₁₆	6⁷⁄₁₆-6⁵⁄₁₆

Overnight: open 5⅞, close 5½.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	5⁷⁄₈	n/a	5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6	6¼
Sterling CDs:	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5¹³⁄₁₆	6-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6-5⁷⁄₈	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6⁵⁄₁₆-6¹⁄₁₆
Dollar CDs:	5.38	n/a	5.39	5.16	5.76
Building Society CDs:	5¹⁵⁄₁₆-5¹³⁄₁₆	6-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-5¹⁵⁄₁₆	6¹⁄₁₆-6	6⁵⁄₁₆-6³⁄₁₆

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅜-5¼	5⅜-5¼	5⅝-5½	5-4
Deutschemark:	3¼-3¹⁄₁₆	3⅜-3¼	3⁵⁄₁₆-3³⁄₁₆	3⁵⁄₁₆-3³⁄₁₆	3¼-2¾
French Franc:	4⁵⁄₁₆-3⅞	4⅛-4	4⁵⁄₁₆-4³⁄₁₆	4⅜-4¼	4¼-3¾
Swiss Franc:	1¹³⁄₁₆-1⅝	1¹³⁄₁₆-1¹¹⁄₁₆	1¹³⁄₁₆-1¹¹⁄₁₆	1¹³⁄₁₆-1¹¹⁄₁₆	2-1
Yen:	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	¹¹⁄₁₆-⁹⁄₁₆	¾-⅝	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $394.60-394.90 **Close:** $394.40-394.90 **High:** $394.40-394.90 **Low:** $393.00-393.50 **AM:** $394.55 **PM:** $394.55

Krugerrand: $394.75-396.75 (£259.50-261.50)

Platinum: $406.30 (£267.30) **Silver:** $5.49 (£3.615) **Palladium:** $138.00 (£90.80)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 10	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5310-2.5492	2.5310-2.5343	⅜-¼pr	2-1¼pr
Brussels	46.52-46.92	46.52-46.62	12-9pr	34-29pr
Copenhagen	8.7430-8.8130	8.7430-8.7580	1½-1¼pr	4½-3½pr
Dublin	0.9668-0.9705	0.9668-0.9694	9-6pr	24-19pr
Frankfurt	2.2659-2.2827	2.2659-2.2690	⅜-¼pr	1¼-1⅛pr
Lisbon	232.61-235.02	232.61-233.23	¼-¾ds	¼-1¼ds
Madrid	189.48-190.91	189.48-189.77	26-36ds	77-94ds
Milan	2373.8-2395.7	2373.8-2377.8	7-8ds	20-23ds
Montreal	2.0478-2.0693	2.0478-2.0508	0.19-0.11pr	0.34-0.23pr
New York	1.5090-1.5222	1.5090-1.5100	0.07-0.05pr	0.19-0.16pr
Oslo	9.7920-9.8680	9.7920-9.8070	1¼-¾pr	3¼-2¾pr
Paris	7.7010-7.7660	7.7010-7.7150	1¼-1⅛pr	3¼-3⅛pr
Stockholm	10.127-10.273	10.127-10.150	¼-¾ds	¼-¾ds
Tokyo	163.91-165.16	163.91-164.18	⅞-¾pr	2¼-2⅛pr
Vienna	15.930-16.054	15.930-15.956	⅞-¾pr	1⅝-⅝pr
Zurich	1.8382-1.8479	1.8382-1.8411	¾-⅝pr	2-1⅞pr

Source: Enmel Premium - pr. Discount - ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2675-1.2683
Austria	10.52-10.53
Belgium (Com)	30.75-30.76
Canada	1.3580-1.3585
Denmark	5.7745-5.7775
France	5.0918-5.0928
Germany	1.4967-1.4974
Hong Kong	7.7322-7.7332
Ireland	1.5675-1.5685
Italy	1570.00-1570.50
Japan	108.30-108.40
Malaysia	2.5230-2.5240
Netherlands	1.6719-1.6724
Norway	6.4648-6.4723
Portugal	153.81-153.91
Singapore	1.4082-1.4092
Spain	125.11-125.16
Sweden	6.6998-6.7707
Switzerland	1.2125-1.2135

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5186-1.5212
Australia dollar	1.9250-1.9274
Bahrain dinar	0.5670-0.5790
Brazil real*	1.4851-1.4893
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7010-0.7110
Finland markka	7.0700-7.1860
Greece drachma	365.25-372.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.7421-11.7514
India rupee	51.58-52.54
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4510-0.4610
Malaysia ringgit	3.8310-3.8350
New Zealand dollar	2.2264-2.2295
Pakistan rupee	52.46 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.4750-5.5000
Singapore dollar	2.1393-2.1423
S Africa rand (com)	6.2960-6.3980
U A E dirham	5.5225-5.6465

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,400	Land Secs	656
ASDA Gp	8,800	Legal & Gn	1,100
Abbey Ntl	5,600	Lloyds TSB	7,500
Allied Dom	1,700	Marks Spr	5,800
Argos	980	NatWst Bk	2,900
Argyll Gp	3,700	Nat Grid	6,800
AB Foods	876	Nat Power	1,600
BAA	1,400	P & O	4,700
BAT Inds	10,000	Pearson	4,400
BOC	1,100	Pilkington	3,700
BP	20,000	PowerGen	848
BSkyB	1,800	Prudential	3,000
BTR	8,900	REXAM	3,000
BT	10,000	RMC	673
Bk of Scot	3,700	RTZ	4,400
Barclays	4,000	Rank Org	2,200
Bass	1,500	Reckitt Col	1,100
Blue Circle	1,900	Redland	1,500
Boots	1,800	Reed Intl	2,000
BAe	2,800	Rentokil	1,800
BA	1,900	Reuters	3,800
Brit Gas	13,000	Rolls Royce	4,600
Brit Steel	9,400	Royal Ins	2,600
Burmah Cstl	836	Ryl Bk Scot	4,100
Burton	6,700	Sainsbury	1,600
Cable Wire	3,100	Schroders	238
Cadbury	5,900	Scot & New	2,000
Carlton Cms	2,700	Scot Power	1,100
Cm Union	1,200	Svrn Trent	340
Cookson	3,800	Shell Trans	6,500
Courtaulds	1,200	Siebe	1,300
Dixons	672	SmKl Bch	2,800
Enterpr Oil	2,900	Smith Nph	7,500
For & Col IT	536	Smiths Inds	512
GKN	1,200	Sthern Elec	610
GRE	6,000	Std Chartd	1,900
GUS	2,700	Sun Allnce	3,200
Gen Acc	949	TI Gp	1,300
Gen Elec	14,000	Tate & Lyle	1,300
Glaxo Well	6,200	Tesco	7,400
Granada	3,400	Thames W	2,400
Grand Met	7,600	Thrn EMI	1,200
Greenalls	617	Tomkins	5,400
Guinness	4,000	Unilever	1,300
HSBC	4,700	United Utls	812
Hanson	12,000	Vodafone	6,800
ICI	2,200	Whitbread	1,800
Kingfisher	3,100	Wllms Hld	1,600
LASMO	10,000	Wolseley	4,200
Ladbroke	5,600	Zeneca	1,400

WALL STREET

	Apr 10 Midday	Apr 9 close
AMP Inc	41¼	41¼
AMR Corp	90½	89½
ASA	46¾	46½
AT & T	61¼	60½
Abbott Labs	42⅞	42⅞
Advanced Micro	17¼	17¼
Aetna Life	71¾	71¾
Ahmanson (HF)	23⅝	23⅝
Air Prod & Chem	54¾	54¼
AirTouch Comm	29½	29½
Alberto-Culver B	37⅝	38½
Albertson's	36	36½
Alcan Alumnm	33½	33½
Alco Standard	51⅝	51⅝
Allied Signal	56½	57
Alum Co of Am	65	64½
Amax Gold Inc	6½	6½
Amerada Hess	57⅝	57⅝
Amer Brands	42⅞	43
Amer El Power	40½	40
Amer Express	47½	47½
Amer Genl Corp	34¼	34¼
Amer Home Pr	109	109½
Amer Intl	90½	90½
Amer Stores	32¼	32½
Amer Standard	27½	27½
Ameritech	53¾	53½
Amoco	73⅜	73¼
Anheuser-Busch	66½	67½
Apple Computer	26½	26
Archer Daniels	18½	18½
Armco	5½	5½
Armstrng Wrld	58½	58½
Asarco	34½	34¼
Ashland Oil	39½	39½
Atl Richfield	120½	121½
Auto Data Pro	39½	38½
Avery Dennison	55½	55½
Avon Products	88½	89½
Baker Hughes	29½	29½
Baltim Gas & El	26½	26½
Banc One	34½	34½
BankAmerica	75½	76½
Bank of NY	49½	50½
Bankers Tr NY	68½	68
Barnett Banks	60½	61¼
Bausch & Lomb	37¼	37¼
Baxter Intl	44	44½
Bectn Dicknsn	79½	79½
Bell Atlantic	60½	60
Bell Industries	22	22½
BellSouth	35¾	35¾
Black & Decker	36¼	36
Block (H&R)	36½	36¼
Boeing	81½	82½
Boise Cascade	41½	41½
Bristol Myrs Sq	82½	83½
Browning Ferris	32½	31½
Brunswick	22½	22½
Burlington Nthn	80½	81½
CMS Energy Corp	29	29½
CNA Financial	104½	105½
CPC Intl	68	68½
CSX	45½	45
Campbell Soup	58½	59½
Can Pacific	19½	19½
Carolina Pwr	36½	35½
Caterpillar	67½	66½
Central & SW	27½	27½
Champion Intl	47½	45½
Chase Manhat	69½	69½
Chevron Corp	56½	56½
Chrysler	61½	61½
Chubb Corp	90½	91½
Cigna Corp	105½	108
Citicorp	79½	79½
Clorox	84½	84½
Coastal Corp	39½	39½
Coca Cola	81½	81½
Colgate-Palmolive	75½	77½
Columbia Gas	45½	45½
ColumbiaHCA	52½	52½
Compaq Comp	40½	39½
Comp Ass Intl	70½	70
Conagra	41½	41½
Conrail	70½	70½
Cons Edison	30½	30½
Cons Nat Gas	45½	45½
Cooper Inds	39	39
Corestates	40½	41
Corning Inc	34½	34½
Crown Cork	43½	46½
Dana Corp	32½	32½
Dayton Hudson	84½	84½
Deere	43½	44
Delta Air Lines	82	80½
Deluxe Corp	32	31½
Digital Equip	54½	54
Dillard Dept St	33½	32½
Disney (Walt)	63½	63½
Dominion Res	38½	39
Donelley (RR)	35½	36
Dover Corp	45½	44½
Dow Chemical	89½	89½
Dow Jones	36½	36½
Dresser	31½	31½
Duke Power	48	48½
Dun & Bradstreet	59½	59½
Du Pont	83	82½
Eastman Chem	66½	67½

	Apr 10 Midday	Apr 9 close
Eastman Kodak	69½	69½
Eaton Corp	61¼	62
Edison Int	16½	16½
Emerson Elec	80½	80½
Engelhard Corp	23½	23½
Enron Corp	38½	37½
Enserch	26½	26½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10½
Exxon	83½	83½
FMC Corp	72½	73
FPL Group	44	43½
Federal Express	73½	72½
Fed Nat Mtge	31½	31
First Bk Sys	59½	60
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Finl Grp	41½	41½
Fluor Corp	66½	67½
Ford Motor	35	35½
GTE Corp	42½	42½
Gannett	66	66½
Gap Inc Del	52½	52½
Gen Dynamics	59	59
Gen Electric	77½	78½
Gen Mills	56½	56½
Gen Motors	54½	54½
Gen Reinsurance	143½	144½
Gen Signal	36	36½
Genuine Parts	44½	44½
Georgia Pac	70½	70
Gillette	50½	50½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	24½	24½
Goodrich (BF)	41½	41½
Goodyear Tire	51½	51½
Grace (W&R)	75½	76½
Gt Atl Pac Tea	34	33½
Great Wstn Fin	23	23½
Halliburton	58½	58½
Harcourt General	44	44
Heinz (HJ)	32½	33½
Hercules	61½	60½
Hershey Foods	74½	75½
Hewlett Packard	96½	96½
Hilton Hotels	97½	96
Home Depot	45½	45½
Homestake Mng	20½	20½
Honeywell	56½	56
Household Intl	65½	66
Houston Inds	22	22
Humana	24½	24½
ITT Corp	60½	61½
Illinois Tool	62½	63½
Illinova	26½	26½
INCO	31½	31½
Ingersoll Rand	39	39½
Inland Steel	26½	26½
Intel Corp	62½	61½
IBM	119½	118½
Intl Flav & Fr	47½	47½
Intl Paper	40	39½
James River Va	25½	24½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	91	91½
Kellogg	73½	74
Kerr-McGee	66½	65½
Kimberly-Clark	72½	72½
Kmart	9½	9½
Knight-Ridder	66½	66½
Lilly (Eli)	61½	63½
Limited Inc	18½	18½
Lincoln Nat	49½	49½
Litton	44	44
Liz Claiborne	34½	34½
Lockheed Martin	75½	77½
Louisiana Pac	23½	23½
MCI Comm	28½	28½
Marriott Int	48	48½
Marsh & McLnn	89½	89½
Masco Corp	27½	26½
May Dept St	47½	47½
Maytag Corp	19½	19½
McDonalds	47½	47½
McDonnell D	89½	90½
McGraw Hill	85½	86½
Mead Corp	54½	53½
Medtronic	56½	56½
Mellon Bk	57½	53½
Melville Corp	38	37½
Merck Inc	60½	61½
Merrill Lynch	58	58½
Microsoft	102½	101½
Minnesota Mine	64½	64½
Mobil Corp	116	117½
Monsanto	150½	151½
Morgan (JP)	81	79½
Motorola Inc	53½	51½
Natl Semi	14½	14½
Natl Service Ind	38½	38½
Navistar Int	10½	10½
NY Times A	31½	31½
Newmont Mng	58½	57½
Niag Mohawk	6½	6½
Nike B	81½	81
NL Industries	12	11½
Norand Energy	8½	8½
Nordstrom	43½	45
Norfolk Sthrn	82½	82½
Nthn State Pwr	47½	47½
Norwest Corp	36	36½
Nynex Corp	49½	49½
Occidental Pet	25½	25½
Ohio Edison	21½	21½

	Apr 10 Midday	Apr 9 close
Oracle	43½	41½
Oryx Energy Co	15½	15½
Owens Corning	39½	39½
PHH Corp	53½	53½
PPG Industries	49½	49½
PNC Bank	30½	30½
PP&L Res	22½	23
Paccar Inc	47	47½
Pacificorp	20½	20½
Pac Enterprises	26½	26½
Pac Gas & Elect	23	23
Pac Telesis	32½	32½
Pall Corp	27	27½
Panhandle East	31½	31½
Parker Hannifin	37½	37½
Peco Energy	25½	25½
Penney (JC)	48½	48½
Pennzoil	41	41
Pepsico	62	62½
Pfizer	68½	68½
Pharm & Upjhn	38½	38½
Phelps Dodge	71½	71
Philip Morris	88½	89½
Phillips Pet	39½	39½
Pitney Bowes	48½	48½
Polaroid	43½	43½
PriceCostco	17½	17½
Procter & Gmbl	82½	83
Providian	45	44½
Pub Serv E & G	26½	26½
Quaker Oats	33½	33
Ralston Purina	63½	63½
Raychem Corp	64½	63½
Raytheon	51½	51½
Reebok Intl	26½	26½
Reynolds Metals	61	60½
Rockwell Intl	56½	57½
Rohm & Haas	66½	67½
Royal Dutch	146½	146½
Rubbermaid	27½	28
SBC Comms	47½	47½
Safeco Corp	33½	32½
St Paul's Cos	55½	55½
Salomon Inc	37½	38½
Sara Lee Corp	31½	32½
Schering Plough	59½	60½
Schlumberger	85½	86
Seagram	32½	32½
Sears Roebuck	47½	48½
Shell Trans	81	80½
Sherwin Wllms	43½	43½
Skyline Corp	24½	24½
Snap-On-Tools	45½	45½
Southern Co	23½	23½
Sprint Corp	38½	38½
Stanley Works	57½	56½
Sun Company	28½	28½
Sun Microsys	48½	46½
Suntrust	68½	68½
Supervalu	32½	32½
Sysco Corp	33½	33½
TRW Inc	89½	93½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	8½	8½
Tandy Corp	47½	48½
Teledyne	33½	34
Temple Inland	47½	46½
Tenneco	56	56½
Texaco	86½	87½
Texas Inst	54½	53½
Texas Utilities	40½	40½
Textron	82½	82½
Time Warner	40½	40
Times-Mirror A	38½	38½
Timken	45	45½
Torchmark	42½	42½
Toys R Us	25½	26½
Transamerica	74½	74½
Travelers	61½	62
Tribune	65½	65½
Tyco Labs	36½	36½
UST Inc	31½	31½
UAL	220½	216½
US Inds	21½	21½
USX Marathon	20½	20
Unicom	27½	27½
Unilever NY	135½	135
Union Camp	50½	50½
Union Carbide	47½	47½
Union Pacific	66½	67½
Unisys Corp	6	5½
USAIR Group	19	18½
USF&G Corp	15½	15½
US Life	29	29
United Tech	109½	110½
Unocal Corp	33½	34½
VF Corp	54½	54½
WMX Tech	33½	33½
Wal-Mart Stores	22½	22
Warner-Lambert	112½	113½
Wells Fargo	250½	251
Westinghouse El	18½	18½
Weyerhaeuser	47½	47½
Whirlpool	57½	57
Whitman	23½	23½
Winn Dixie	32½	32½
Woolworth	15½	15½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	56½	56½
Xerox	125½	126½
Yellow Corp	13	12½

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Stamp of disapproval

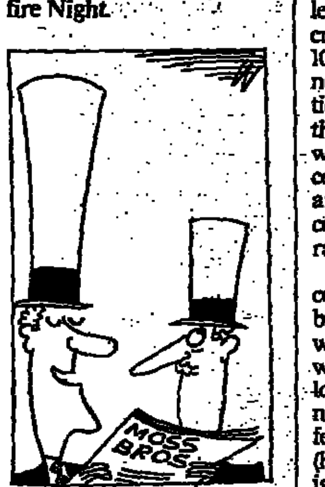
POSTAGE rates were raised by 10 per cent in Germany yesterday, less than a month before the German Post Office's court case against Citibank.

The Bonn Post Office is claiming £1.56 million in excess postage against Citibank, which routinely mails credit card bills to German customers from its European accounts centre in Holland, where rates are at least 20 per cent lower. Although it is illegal for a German organisation to mail letters to Germans from outside the country, Citibank could well win the impending case.

Backed by the Dutch Post Office, Citibank is arguing that it re-mails from Holland because its 24-hour service is far superior, not because it is cheaper than its German counterpart.

Strike a light

THE ruthless strategy behind the Headlam Group's annual results is out. When Ian "cost cutting" Kirkham, chief executive of the floor-covering distributors, acquired one of a number of small companies in November last year, he also took on 15 local salesmen, who insisted on coming into the office every Friday to write up their reports. Kirkham, however, wanted the salesmen out of the office and on the road. Unbeknown to them, he stacked up their desks and struck a match to the pile on Bonfire Night.



"50% higher payout, too."

New life

DICK BARFIELD, 49, is going it alone at the end of June, when John Thomson replaces him as chief investment manager at Standard Life. Barfield, who joined the company in 1970 as an actuarial student and was appointed a director of the Stock Exchange in 1995, will be making the most of his knowledge of financial markets and companies in an advisory capacity from home. Now is the time to take to the hills and heather, says Barfield; who curently lives with his wife and two cats ten miles outside the city of Edinburgh. "We are also looking to get a new dog," he says.

Nigerian scam

THE latest in a series of "scam letters" from Nigeria tells the pitiful tale of one Ambrose Omoh, who stole $75.5 million by overstating a government contract. To get the money out the country, he is promising a 100 per cent guarantee to investors who surrender their headed notepaper and quote their bank account number. It goes on: "I quite believe that you will protect our interest by taking this deal strictly confidential, as we are still in government services, which we intend to retire from peacefully at the end of this deal."

WHILE men dream of a study of their own, women lust after a designer kitchen, according to a survey by estate agents Knight Frank. When looking for property, women sniff out an Aga and men head straight for the billiard room.

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW

JANET BUSH

Windfalls debate disguises risk to manufacturing jobs

Divisions among the analysts don't tell the whole story, says Janet Bush

The undisguised mutual contempt that erupted recently between two of Britain's best-known monetarist economists has been a welcome piece of vaudeville for analysts discontented with this year's interminable winter.

Last month, Professor Patrick Minford accused fellow advisers to the Chancellor of counselling caution — which he thinks amounts to political suicide. He called for another 2 per cent off base rates or — even better — for Kenneth Clarke to resign and make way for someone Professor Minford thinks more sensible. That provoked Professor Tim Congdon into apoplexy. He called Professor Minford a menace and a dangerous reflationist and said that it was impossible to have a proper argument with him.

Beyond the insults is a genuinely cavernous gap in economic perception, which can be replicated across the City. One side of the argument is the view that strong consumer spending will power the economy to healthy growth this year, that the inflation target may be under threat and that interest rates need to be raised.

Professor Congdon is in this camp. In his submission to this week's report to the Chancellor by his independent forecasting panel, he argues at length that M4 money supply currently growing at around 10 per cent year-on-year cannot be reconciled with inflation of 2.5 per cent or less, and that the rate of money growth will have to be reduced to 5 per cent if the target is to be hit. He argues that there is already, or could soon be, a good case for raising interest rates.

The other camp believes consumer spending will grow, but not dramatically; that the weakness of manufacturing will drag the whole economy lower; and that lower rates are needed to bolster growth. Professor Minford is in this camp (his call for 2 per cent off rates is so singular one assumes that he is holed up in a one-man bivouac). He believes that the current stagnation in manufacturing, as firms totter under the weight of huge involuntary stockpiles, could turn into something a lot nastier if interest rates are not cut.

One of the apparently unreconcilable points of difference is in interpreting the potential impact on consumer spending of various windfalls in the pipeline — maturing Tessas, bonuses paid out by merging banks and building societies, and rebates from electricity companies.

The six-person forecasting panel disagrees on this point, of course. Gavyn Davies of Goldman Sachs and Bridget Rosewell of Business Strategies see the biggest positive effect from windfalls, predicting that they will add 0.6 per cent to consumption this year and 1.1 per cent next year. Professor Congdon sees 0.6 per cent this year but only around 0.4 per cent in 1997.

Professor Minford boldly sees no impact. Indeed, in his submission to the Chancellor he even suggests an ulterior motive: "I suspect that the weakness of the bonanza argument is secretly understood by its proponents but that it is produced as one of a series of fig leafs for the unshakeable prejudice that we must keep on hammering inflation until it is really, really dead."

Perhaps it's worth bringing in another monetarist to inform this debate. Peter Warburton of Robert Fleming Securities firmly believes that, if Mr Clarke is counting on windfalls to propel consumer spending 3.5 per cent higher, he is whistling in the dark. He notes, for example, that there were phenomenal opportunities for financing additional spending last year. Individuals accumulated gilts, PEPs and unit trusts but parted with about £20 billion in shares (a lot of them in privatised utilities subject to takeover bids).

All in all, individuals liquidated a net £13 billion in securities but none of this huge divestment spilled into consumption. Mr Warburton points out that additions to liquid savings swamped net disposals of securities. Why should we then believe that people are any more likely to spend available cash this year than last?

It is worth noting that, despite all this contention, only one independent forecaster of the 43 monitored every month by the Treasury is more optimistic on consumer spending growth than the Chancellor's 3.5 per cent. The other 42 are all lower and the average is 3 per cent. So, even if Professors Minford and Congdon were to agree on this point, they still wouldn't share the Chancellor's optimism.

The debate on windfalls will run and run. But there is another point to make in the current, broader debate on the economy's prospects. Everyone has noted that there is a huge gap between the strength of consumption and the weakness of manufacturing industry and that the two are entirely separate. The assumption seems to be that the economy will be OK even if manufacturing splutters along with no growth because the mighty British consumer will come to the rescue. Many economists pointed to a healthy rise in the output of consumer goods in February's industrial production figures as a sign that everything will be all right once manufacturers have got rid of excess stocks. But the truth is that durable consumer goods account for only 6 per cent of total manufacturing output.

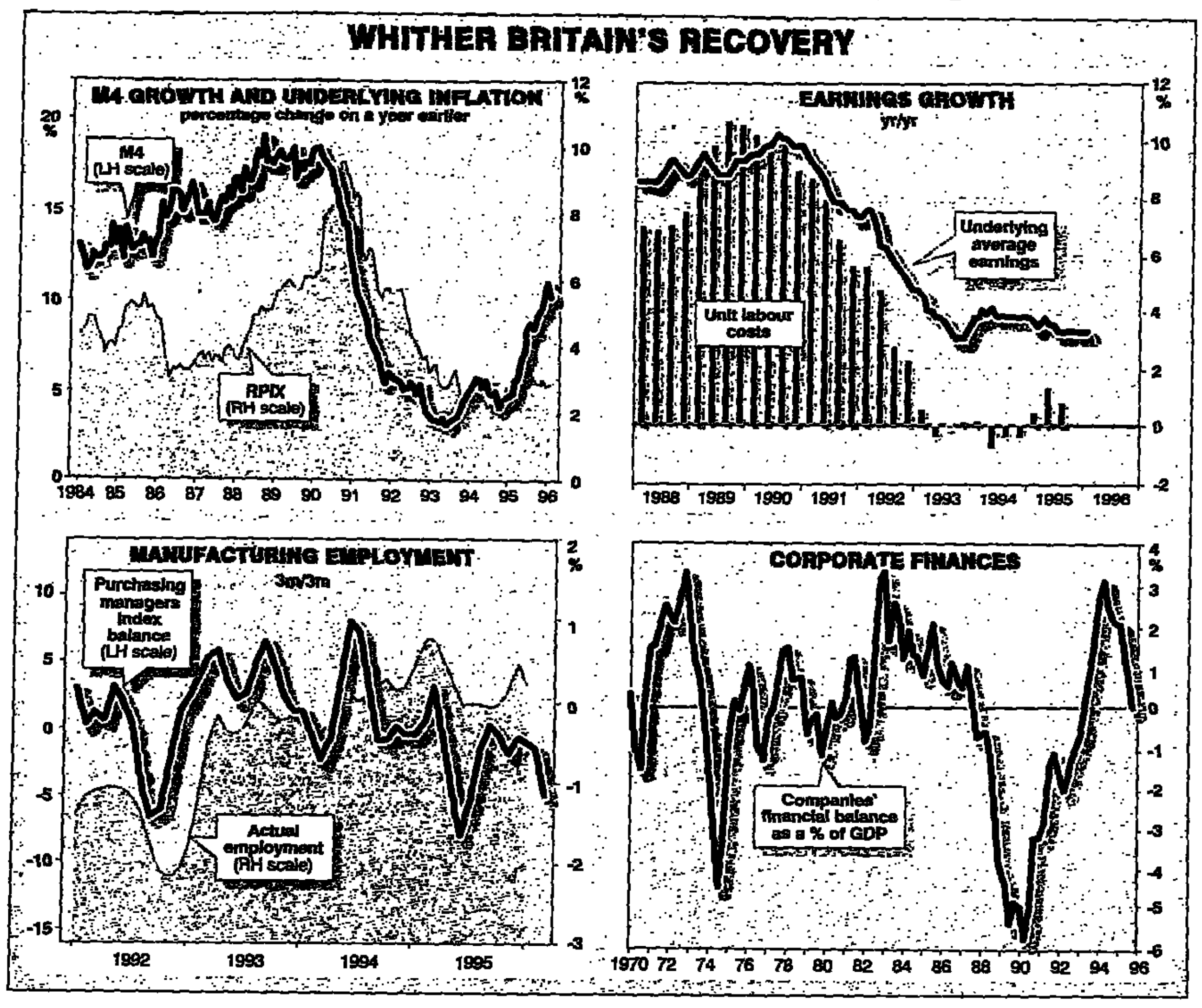
Ian Shepherdson of HSBC Markets believes that it is disingenuous to believe that consumers will march on regardless of the doldrums in industry. As he puts it: "Consumers are simply producers going shopping and bankrupt producers do not make for voracious shoppers." The simple point he is making is that companies stuck with huge stocks and failing demand in key home and export markets are likely to be on the verge of a new round of job-shedding.

In January, the manufacturing sector shed 27,000 jobs, the biggest single monthly clear-out for three years. Mr Shepherdson said he would not be surprised to see 100,000 manufacturing jobs lost this year and that his firm's forecast for 5 per cent base rates at the end of this year "looks more like a necessary condition for decent growth in consumption and the economy as a whole than a recipe for an inflationary boomlet".

The most recent purchasing managers' survey appears to back this view of weaker employment prospects, with its employment index falling for the third month. This has proved quite a good indicator of actual employment.

The other strand of this argument — negative in its implications for the path of the economy this year — is that companies are no longer flush with cash. In the fourth quarter, industrial and commercial companies posted a deficit of £624 million, the first minus balance since the first quarter of 1993. One of the reasons was the 33.7 per cent increase in dividend payments. With average earnings growth still at low levels, these dividend payments provided a useful boost to disposable income last year. But with companies now in deficit, such a bonanza is most unlikely this year. Job losses are more likely.

The glass half-full brigade talk about building society windfalls: their glass half-empty colleagues point to the risks of hard-pressed manufacturers shedding labour. But a recent *Times* reader's letter might bring a useful perspective to both these views. He wrote: "Cheltenham & Gloucester was taken over by Lloyds Bank. This has indeed resulted in large credits appearing in people's investment accounts . . . I myself was made redundant, along with many others, from one of the constituent parts of C&G a year or so earlier, in what I now see as a downsizing to make the society more attractive to any predators." Such a commercial equation does not allow unadulterated optimism.


WHITHER BRITAIN'S RECOVERY

A mountain to climb for Swiss merger

Patricia Tehan on the overtures made to UBS by Credit Suisse

There is absolutely no financial need for Union Bank of Switzerland and CS Holding, parent of the Credit Suisse bank, to merge. As, respectively, the biggest and the second-biggest banks in their domestic markets, and having huge international investment banking operations, both are big enough and strong enough to continue quite happily as they are for some time. However, in a cleverly worded statement on Tuesday, CS Holding set the merger ball rolling by setting out, for public consumption, all the reasons for its decision to push its bigger rival into holding talks.

Although there is no obvious need for a merger, there is, superficially at least, clear logic for the two to get together. Switzerland has too many banks and too many high street branches, and the banks face emerging competition from telephone banking. They must make huge investments to stay competitive. There is a widely acknowledged need for consolidation in Swiss retail banking.

CS Holding was early in the process when, in 1993, it took over Swiss Volksbank. However, with hindsight, according to John Leonard, banking analyst with Salomon Brothers in London, the deal came too early and was too expensive.

> ❛ To merge or not to merge is a very difficult thing to call ❜

Now the bank is active again. Apparently reluctantly, CS Holding had been forced to issue a statement after reports of a confidential telephone conversation last week between Rainer Gut, its chairman, and Nikolaus Senn, chairman of UBS, leaked to Zurich's *Tages-Anzeiger* newspaper.

In the statement, the bank cleverly denied rumours that it was planning to rock the replacement of Dr Senn as chairman of UBS by Robert Studer, an executive. It had been whispered that CS Holding would back Martin Ebner's BK Vision, the investment fund that is UBS's largest shareholder, in plans to oppose Mr Studer's nomination at a shareholder meeting next Tuesday.

Mr Ebner's opposition to the nomination of Mr Studer and other directors was prompted by his battle with UBS's board over implementation of a scheme to unify its share structure.

However, analysts say that, by denying its plans to back Mr Ebner, CS Holding was placing over the UBS directors the threat of switching its support.

CS also made clear in its statement that it wanted the UBS directors to put the matter to shareholders, saying that, in their telephone conversation, the two chairmen had agreed "that a decision of such importance had to be made not by them, but by the shareholders".

Peter Thorne, banking analyst with Paribas, said: "CS Holding is pushing the issue and has been very aggressive over the last few years. UBS has been stalwart in not changing itself in Switzerland." To merge or not to merge, he said, "is a very difficult thing to call".

Research issued yesterday by Datamonitor, the consultancy, suggested Switzerland's financial institutions "are as vulnerable as any to the ongoing problems faced by the international banking community."

The real logic for a merger is the potential for cost savings by taking surplus capacity out of the Swiss market. Mr Leonard said that, based on conservative US models, annual cost savings available to the combined group could be SFr2 billion (£1.08 billion), though he said it would take three or four years to get there. There is also doubt about whether the Swiss authorities would let the banks suffer the pain of up to 15,000 job cuts to achieve the savings.

Tonight will see whether UBS can be bounced into agreeing a deal by its more opportunistic rival. Given the difficulties involved in putting together the Swiss retail network, the likely loss of clients when investment banking operations are put together, the regulatory and monopoly issues in Switzerland and the US and the very different management cultures of the two, Mr Leonard said he has little doubt about the verdict from the UBS board tonight. "I expect a polite thanks but no thanks," he said.

Jonathan Prynn on a sudden departure at Opraf

Brief encounter on the railway

The sudden departure of Roger Salmon, the mercurial and temperamental head of Opraf, the Government's passenger rail privatisation agency, brings to an end a brief but extraordinary career in public service.

Mr Salmon was appointed to the £130,000 a year position in January 1993 and given one of the most sensitive and politically charged jobs within the gift of Government. A banker with a first-class mathematics degree from Cambridge with little or no experience in public relations was not the most obvious choice for such a high profile role. But he was well known to ministers and respected for his impressive problem-solving intellect.

However, it was clear from day one that the man responsible for selling off the railways had failed to grasp the scale of the political difficulties of the task ahead of him. Assailed on all sides, Mr Salmon quickly gained a reputation in government as an unsafe pair of hands. His early press conferences were often hijacked by Brian Mawhinney, the then Transport Secretary and his minders from Marsham Street.

Mr Salmon, who is keen practitioner of Vipassana, a form of Bhuddist meditation, was noticeably uncomfortable dealing with the media and is said not to have enjoyed having to "sell" the privatisation policy for the Government. Although a believer in the system, he studiously sidestepped questions about his personal views on the ideology behind it. At times this left the impression that his heart was not fully behind the selloff.

Salmon: keen meditator

He also rarely gave interviews on the main opinion forming programmes, such as BBC Radio 4's Today programme and BBC TV's Newsnight, despite the political furore that was eruptiong about his ears. While admired for his powers of delegation, he was rarely seen publicly defending his allocation of hundreds of millions of pounds of public money.

The nadir of his three-year term in office was during the months surrounding Christmas last year, the time when the first franchises were being sold. What should have been his moment of triumph decended into farce when the first sales were twice blocked by court actions and the sale of LTS Rail had to be suspended amid allegations of ticket fraud.

Collegues close to Mr Salmon say that he came near to resigning at that time and even after being persuaded to stay decided that he would make way for a successor within months. However, since the low point, Mr Salmon's fortunes and his reputation have begun to recover. Two franchises are now succesfully up and running in the private sector and three more will have been sold by the end of the month. With a following wind, all but a tiny handful of franchises will have been sold by next Spring.

Mr Salmon feels he has done his job and that it is safe for him to return to the scholarly anonymity of the world of finance. He leaves a half finished privatisation and an organisation that it almost certain to be abolished if Labour gets in at the election. Close colleagues says he believes he is leaving on a high, with his place in privatisation history assured. A less charitable view is that he has left a fractured industry that will take years to recover from the damage he has inflicted on it.

But with Labour unliklely to reverse the franchising process, his legacy is likely to be as long lasting, although hopefully more benign, than that other great bogey man of the train enthusiast world, Dr Beeching.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 182nd Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held at the Head Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh on Tuesday 7 May 1996 at 2.30pm for the following purposes:

- To consider the Accounts and Balance Sheets for the year ended 31 December 1995 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.
- To re-elect Mr R H Davey, Mr W H Main, Dr C Masters and Mr D C Ritchie as Directors.
- To fix the remuneration of Directors.
- To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as Auditors.
- To authorise the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year.
- To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective, Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A proxy need not be a Member of the Society.

Questions may be submitted from Members who themselves or through their Proxy intend to be present at the Meeting. These should be in writing and lodged with the undersigned not less than four clear working days before the Meeting.

T B Houston SSC
Group Legal Adviser and Secretary
15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 3 April 1996

ACCOUNTANCY

Be vigilant on tax reforms

Nigel Doran and Ashley Greenbank on new rules for corporate debt

Ashley Greenbank, left, and Nigel Doran say the reforms will end much difficult legislation

The Finance Bill 1996, which will become law early next month, is set to revolutionise the way in which companies are taxed on interest, profits and losses on transactions in corporate bonds and gilts.

The reasons given for the reform include the simplification of the tax system.

Although the new legislation is not easy to follow, it will sweep away dozens if not hundreds of pages of difficult legislation.

The reform is also a prerequisite for the development of the official gilt strips market for which the previous tax regime was wholly unsuited.

For tax advisers, the new regime represents a logical conclusion to two earlier reforms.

These were the rules on foreign exchange gains and losses in the Finance Act 1993 and the reform of the taxation of financial instruments in the Finance Act 1994.

Both of these sought to align the tax and accounting treatment. The same approach is being adopted in the new rules for corporate and government debt.

A tax system based on the accounting treatment will be more coherent and rational than the old law, which bristled with anomalies.

For instance, holding companies received no relief for interest paid on non-bank short-term debt and no tax relief was available to any company for a loss incurred in buying its long-term debt at a premium. Equally, no tax was charged on a profit made on buying in debt at a discount. Those anomalies are now removed.

Only two accounting methods are authorised: the accruals basis and the mark-to-market basis. Both must conform to normal accountancy practice.

Industrial and commercial companies will tend to use the accruals basis, while financial institutions will be the main users of the mark-to-market basis.

Most of the difficulties in the new legislation arise where it requires a departure from the normal accounting treatment. As a starting point, only an acceptable accruals basis of accounting will be permitted where the parties to the loan relationship are, or have been, connected at any time in the past two years.

In spite of the changes made in standing committee, the test of connection remains extremely wide. It may, in particular, have an impact on management buyouts and other venture capital transactions. A test based on economic ownership may have been more appropriate and would not have amounted to a significant loophole in the legislation.

Some of the anti-avoidance rules can also give rise to unexpected tax charges. For example, interest paid between connected parties more than 12 months after it has accrued will not be deductible unless the lender is also taxed as the interest accrues under the new regime. There will, therefore, be good reasons for groups to ensure that borrowers are provided with alternative finance so that interest is always paid on time or to avoid interest bearing debt altogether where a connected lender is outside the new regime.

The wider use by groups of debt issued at a discount will not solve these problems.

In fact, where the holder is connected with the borrower, some discounted securities will be even less attractive under the new regime than they were under the old legislation.

In the past, the tax advantages of deep discount securities were eliminated in a way that produced a neutral tax result.

Under the new rules, an asymmetrical tax treatment can arise: the borrower may not be entitled to a deduction for the discount on a bond held by a connected lender until it is paid, but the holder may be taxed on the discount as it accrues.

Perhaps the most controversial anti-avoidance rule is that which prohibits deductions for interest payments or losses arising from transactions in debts for "unallowable purposes".

Unallowable purposes include any activities that are outside the charge to corporation tax.

We assume this provision is directed at activities outside the jurisdictional scope of UK tax, but its precise ambit is unclear.

Unallowable purposes also include the securing of a tax advantage for any person. This is defined by reference to existing anti-avoidance rules from which there is an exemption for bona fide commercial transactions and a clearance procedure.

No such exemption and no clearance procedure are to be available here.

In general, this is a welcome reform. However, vigilance will be required to avoid those aspects that represent traps for the unwary.

Nigel Doran and Ashley Greenbank are members of the corporate tax group at Macfarlanes.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Taking guard at Chelmsford

THE upheavals in the English ICA's technical directorate continue. Having issued a strategy document late last year saying that the directorate intended to be "a centre of technical excellence that is recognised as the undisputed leader in its field" it now finds that it has lost its own leader. Or to be more precise its technical director. Arthur Andersen alumnus Bruce Picking, is leaving. As he is a keen Essex supporter and the cricket season starts shortly, members seeking technical advice in the future would be well advised to drop into the county ground at Chelmsford.

Fighting shy

EVEN English chartered accountants are fighting shy of their finest traditions. In the week after the great beef scare the Leith's restaurant in the basement at the English ICA headquarters had a solution. Dutch beef was being served with some style. But the stiff upper lip trembled. A week later what is known as "the bottom line special" had become non-British and non-beef. But had, as members found to their relief, stopped short of going the whole hog and becoming vegetarian.

Soft sell

WE are well into the danger zone for the tax self-assessment regime. And Ernst & Young knows how to respond to a panic. "The cavalry has arrived in the form of EY/PD plus", trumpets a press release. Sadly this does not mean the firm is sending in a boarding party at the Inland Revenue's HQ just down the Thames at Somerset House to sort them out. It means they have some software to sell. Details on 0171 931 2700.

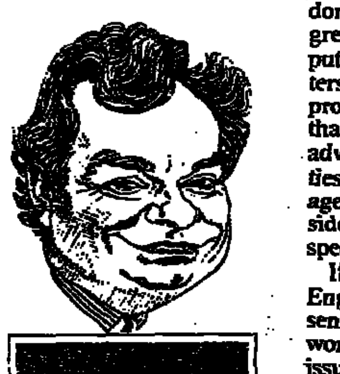
ROBERT BRUCE

Thoughtful approach needed to fill the void

A BIT of a void has opened up in the accountancy profession. It is not that there is a shortage of issues to face. If anything, the accountancy profession is faced with more challenging and serious issues than ever before — and they show no signs of lessening. The void is in the thought processes.

Until the collapse of the merger proposals for Cima, the management accounting body, and the English ICA, there had been a presumption that the way forward for the profession as a whole was through gradual unification. A whole generation of accountants had, when they lifted their eyes from the work of the moment, been focused on larger, more centralised structures to enable the profession to continue the extraordinary growth in influence that has characterised its place in the last half of this century.

Now that agenda has evaporated. The goal of one British accounting body and the possibility of a pan-European accounting body to follow has been abandoned. It may well come about in piecemeal fashion and come together as a loose federation. But the grand design has been quietly parcelled up and stored deep in the archives.



ROBERT BRUCE

What follows is less clear. The focus has changed abruptly. New policies need to be thought through and put into place. The cynicism of the wider membership of the profession needs to be addressed.

The profession is seen by its humbler members as having stumbled into ludicrously expensive schemes, such as regulation. They can look at their cheque stubs for evidence. A newly qualified member of the Scots ICA in 1990 paid a subscription of £125 a year. Six years later, during a period of low inflation and recession, it has risen to £200.

Compared with other subscriptions, such as golf clubs for example, it is still low. But that is not the point. Much of it is seen as disappearing into a regulatory black hole. The old joke about a yacht being a hole in the ocean into which you poured pound notes could easily be swapped with the profession's disciplinary schemes.

The accountancy bodies know that they have no choice but to keep the schemes going. Governments will allow no other option for the simple reason that they would otherwise have to pick up the tab themselves. But that is no comfort to members.

So new policies will address the basics of trying to keep members happier and better informed. But that again is more of a rolling policy than anything which properly addresses the problem of the void. And it also holds dangers, as the collapse of the Law Society into a populist quagmire has already shown.

Similarly, new initiatives, like last week's launch of proposals to create an independent oversight board for the profession, will move the agenda. If that scheme comes to fruition it will prove a useful and highly public sounding board for the profession. But the shift is also visible in its creation. It has come about through a bottom-up rather than a top-down process.

The old political forces within the profession may be changing. Or it may simply be that the people at the top of the tree are so exhausted by all the ultimately fruitless work of the last few years that they are, for the time being, waving more enthusiastic souls through from the next tier down.

But when the processes settle down once more there will be a need to take a serious look at what needs to be done. First, that means greater resources need to be put behind technical matters. Second, the developing profession should ensure that it is agile enough to take advantage of the opportunities that in an information age, are coming at it from all sides and at alarming speeds.

If I were to say that the English ICA has taken a sensible step in setting up a working party to look at the issues, members could be excused a hollow laugh. However, this appears, for once, to be a working party in the right place and at the right time.

It is called the 2005 project, and it seeks, straightforwardly enough, to look at what the profession and the world may look like ten years hence, and what strategies should be put into place to ensure that accountants are central to the needs of that future business world. The working party will analyse the economic, social and technological forces which it expects to shape the future needs of the business world.

It will consult widely to ensure that its views on the nature of changes ahead are solidly based. It will publish its findings later this year and will then, after taking further responses into account, attempt to develop a strategy.

It also hopes that it could become a catalyst for incorporating long-term planning into the institute's thinking on a continuing basis. It is just this type of thoughtful work which will fill the void. And it is a refreshing change to the crisis management that has been prevalent in the past.

Court of Appeal

Law Report April 11 1996

Chancery Division

Failure to notify council not fatal

Regina v Marsh

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Mantell and Judge Grigson

[Judgment March 28]

The failure to notify the local authority of the intended prosecution of a young person in accordance with section 5(8) or 34(2) of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969, as amended, did not render all subsequent proceedings a nullity: the subsections were directory rather than mandatory.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Dwayne Douglas Alan Marsh against his conviction, on a plea of guilty, in December 1995, at Southwark Crown Court (Mr Recorder Tudor Owen) of aggravated vehicle taking and driving while disqualified for which he was sentenced to eight months detention in a young offender institution and disqualified for driving for two years. No separate penalty was imposed for a conviction of using a vehicle without insurance.

Section 5 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1969 provides:

"(8) It shall be duty of a person who decides to lay an information in respect of an offence in a case where ... the ... offender is a young person to give notice of the decision to the appropriate local authority..."

Section 34(2) of the 1969 Act, as amended by section 108(4) of the Children Act 1989 and section 168(1) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, provides:

"In the case of a person who has not attained the age of eighteen but has attained such lower age as the secretary of state may by order specify, no proceedings ... for an offence shall be begun in any court unless the person proposing to bring proceedings has, in addition to any notice falling to be given by him to a local authority in pursuance of section ... 5(8) of this Act, given notice to a probation officer for the area for which the court acts..."

Mr John Lyons, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Howard Vagg for the prosecution.

JUDGE GRIGSON, giving the judgment of the court, said that shortly after the appellant had been sentenced his solicitor discovered that there had been a breach of the provisions of section 5(8) and 34(2) of the 1969 Act, as amended. In consequence the matter was relisted before the trial judge under the slip rule with a view to rescinding the sentence on the basis that the proceedings had been a nullity.

At that hearing the judge acceded to a request to adjourn his ruling until after the Queen's Bench Divisional Court had given their judgment in a similar case, *Director of Public Prosecutions v Cottier* (*The Times* February 22 1996) which had been heard in the Divisional Court before Lord Justice Saville and Mr Justice Blofeld on January 31, 1996.

The last available date open to the trial judge to deal with the sentence under the slip rule was February 1 but the judgment in *Cottier* was not given until February 8. The trial judge therefore agreed to certify the case as fit for appeal against conviction.

The point on appeal was therefore the simple and straightforward one of whether sections 5(8) and 34(2) were mandatory, in which case the proceedings were a nullity, or directory, in which case they were valid.

In *Cottier* the court's attention was drawn to section 5(6) which provided, among other things, that no proceedings should be invalidated by reason of a contravention of any provision "of this section".

However, subsections (1) to (7) were never brought into force and were eventually repealed by the Criminal Justice Act 1991. Nevertheless there was no reason for supposing that Parliament intended, if subsections (1) to (7) were to be abandoned, that in that event a breach of subsection (8) would have the effect of invalidating proceedings.

Lord Justice Saville and Mr Justice Blofeld therefore came to the conclusion in that case that the subsection was a directory rather than a mandatory provision and could see no good reason why Parliament should have intended the opposite in relation to section 34(2).

Their Lordships adopted the reasons put forward in *Cottier* and it accordingly followed that the appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Operations Group.

Adding claim after limitation period expires

Lloyd's Bank plc v Rogers and Another

Before Judge Overend, QC

[Judgment March 20]

A court was entitled by section 35 of the Limitation Act 1980 and Order 20, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court to grant leave to amend pleadings to add a claim after the limitation period had expired, where the claim arose out of the same or substantially the same facts as a timeous claim which, although not part of the original action, was the subject of leave to amend in the same application.

Thus in a plaintiff's action for debt, a defendant would be allowed to amend his counterclaim to allege libel against the plaintiff bank outside the limitation period since the libel claim arose out of substantially the same facts as the counterclaim for breach of contract for wrongly dishonouring cheques, even though the contractual claim, made within the limitation period, was only added to the original counterclaim by leave in the same application to amend.

The contractual claim was "previously made in the original action" within the meaning of section 35(5) of the 1980 Act, and was "a cause of action in respect of which relief has already been claimed in the action" within the meaning of Order 20, rule 5 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Judge Overend, QC, sitting as a High Court judge, so held in a reserved judgment delivered in open court in the Queen's Bench Division in Plymouth. He accordingly allowed an appeal by the first defendant, Nicholas Emerson Rogers, against the refusal in part by District Judge Tromans on January 11, 1995 of the first defendant's application to amend his defence and counterclaim in an action brought against him and the first defendant, Linda Jane Rogers, by Lloyd's Bank plc.

Mr Miles Croally for the first defendant; Mr David Eady, QC and Mr Thomas Keith for the bank.

HIS LORDSHIP said that similar circumstances arose in *Welsh Development Agency v Redpath Dorman Long Ltd* ([1994] 1 WLR 1409), where the judge had granted leave to amend to add a contractual claim and then had to decide whether or not he could take into account that contractual claim in considering further applications to amend.

Lord Justice Glidewell (at p1416) had approved the judge's approach in assuming that the amendments that he had already allowed had been made.

There was no difference in principle between that situation and the present, leave having already been given for the amendment to plead the contractual claim.

His Lordship accordingly rejected Mr Eady's submission that the revised pleading had not in fact been served and was not therefore already in existence.

As to discretion, the claim was based upon substantially the same facts as founded the contractual dishonour claim and accordingly fell squarely within Order 20, rule 5 and section 35 of the 1980 Act.

It was an unusual claim in that the plaintiff, a major national bank, had chosen not to claim interest on moneys lent, in the face of an allegation that their interest rates were extortionate.

Although libel actions were not normally permitted to be aired many years after the events in question, the first defendant had had to struggle hard to obtain the necessary material from the plaintiff to ascertain the true nature of his claim. To that extent the plaintiff had contributed to the delay.

In the circumstances the court's discretion should not be exercised against the first defendant and the libel claim should be allowed to go forward.

Solicitors: Alison Trent & Co; Foot & Bowden, Plymouth.

Rent arrears relevant in housing

Regina v Lambeth London Borough Council, Ex parte Njomo

Rent arrears were a relevant consideration which could be taken into account by a local authority under section 22 of the Housing Act 1985 in the allocation of housing tenancies.

Mr Justice Sedley so held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 22 when allowing an application by Lucy Njomo for judicial review of the decision of the London Borough of Lambeth on July 17, 1995 not to offer her and her four children a transfer to better council accommodation because of arrears of rent on her existing tenancy.

HIS LORDSHIP said that there was nothing in the legislation which directly or implicitly shut out arrears as a material consideration. A local authority was entitled to treat as relevant to its housing management functions, although in no way determinative, the fact that an applicant had been a bad tenant in the past, so rehousing might carry fresh cost and resource implications.

Provided they were not treated as more than an indicator of reliability, the existence or absence of rent arrears could likewise be a factor relevant to the housing management function.

The rigid way in which the policy had been applied in the present case, however, was unlawful and accordingly the decision of the council would be quashed.

Trade not on commercial basis

Wannell v Rothwell (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment March 29]

Losses from speculative financial activities undertaken by a taxpayer were not losses sustained from a trade carried on by him on a commercial basis and thus were not available for relief against income tax.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an appeal by Mr I. F. P. L. Wannell from the determination of a deputy special commissioner (Mr Paul de Voil) disallowing loss relief for the years 1985-86 to 1987-88 of £5,760, £23,453 and £25,217 respectively.

Section 168(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, now section 380 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, provides for a person sustaining a loss in any trade to make a claim for relief from income tax.

Section 170 of the 1970 Act, now section 384 of the 1988 Act, provides: "(1) A loss ... shall not be available for relief under section 168 unless it is shown that ... the trade was being carried on on a commercial basis and with a view to the realisation of profits..."

Mr Patrick Way for Mr Wannell; Mr Timothy Brennan for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that Mr Wannell had worked for a commodity futures dealer before deciding in 1986 to set up on his own. He did so with very basic equipment, a fax, telephone, market reports and using the drawing room of his private residence as his office. He did not subscribe to a full screen service. He did not buy either commodity futures or shares as assets to be held but aimed at quick turnover and quick profits.

On a typical day there might have been between eight and 16 conversations between Mr Wannell and his broker. However, in the only complete year of assessment when Mr Wannell was entering into transactions in both shares and commodities, there were in all 30 pairs of purchase and sale transactions.

The commissioner concluded that because of his lack of commercial organisation, Mr Wannell, even if carrying on trading activities, could not have been doing so on a commercial basis.

The expression "on a commercial basis" did not appear to have been considered by the court: a useful approach might be to view "commercial" as the antithesis of "uncommercial". A trade might be conducted in an uncommercial way.

The distinction was between the serious trader who, whatever his shortcomings in skill, experience or capital, was seriously interested in profit, and the amateur or dilettante. Doubtless there would be difficult borderline cases for decision and such borderline cases could as well occur in Bond Street as at a car boot sale.

Here the commissioner found that "a case which is so close to the trading borderline because of its lack of commercial organisation was bound to be on the wrong side of the section 170 borderline". It seemed likely that he had had in mind Mr Wannell's casualness and lack of self-discipline.

The inclination was to remit the matter to the commissioner to make further findings and reconsider his conclusion. It would have been useful to know what exactly the admission of casualness amounted to and what other activities, if any, Mr Wannell had been undertaking at the time. But the parties had not wished that course to be taken.

The commissioner was to be taken as having concluded that Mr Wannell was trading. He was aiming at quick profits and his experience and method of operating showed that he had had a reasonable prospect of achieving profits.

The grey area was as to whether his admitted casualness or lack of self-discipline made his trading activities uncommercial. Notwithstanding the difficulty in fully understanding the commissioner's views, his conclusion was not perverse or unsupported by any evidence so that his final decision was not wrong in law.

Solicitors: Gouldens; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Order cannot exclude person

In re D (Minors) (Residence: Imposition of conditions)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Schiemann

[Judgment March 25]

A residence order under section 8 of the Children Act 1989 with conditions imposed under section 11(7) was not to be made if its effect was to exclude another person from the mother's home, thereby interfering with her right to live with whom she liked.

The Court of Appeal so held giving leave to appeal and allowing an appeal by a mother from an order in favour of the father by Judge Hargrove, QC, in Tunbridge Wells County Court in December 1995 whereby he refused to discharge part of an order made in July 1995 under section 8 of the 1989 Act that the mother would not bring her two young children into contact with the man who had been living with her nor allow the man to reside at her home.

Miss Claire Heppenstall for the mother; Miss Elizabeth-Anne Gumbel for the father.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that in July 1995 the mother had consented to the order returning the two children, aged four and two, to her and imposing the condition not to bring them into contact with W nor to allow W to reside at her address.

Shortly before, W had been committed to prison for nine months for breach of an injunction. On W's release in November 1995 the mother, wishing W to return to live with her, applied to vary the terms of the order.

The judge, hearing the matter as a preliminary issue, rejected the mother's case that he had had no jurisdiction to make the July order, holding that it was proper to make a residence order imposing conditions under section 11(7) of the Act.

W had no right to occupy the mother's flat: thus the case was not one where the judge had made an ouster order through the back door.

However, his Lordship said that he had given a judgment in the recent case of *D v D* (February 1, 1996, CA) in the course of which he had said:

"If and in so far as Lord Justice Swinton Thomas in *In re O (a Minor) (Contact: Imposition of conditions)* (*The Times* March 17 1995; [1995] 2 FLR 124) was suggesting there is unfettered discretion under section 11(7) to make an order the effect of which is to interfere with the clear right of occupation of one party, then that runs counter to the whole of the development of the law ... and with respect could not be right.

"Section 11(7), in my judgment, is ancillary to the making of a section 8 order. It is governed by the provisions for the making of a section 8 order and does not allow the importation by this back door of the matters laid down in the Matrimonial Homes Act 1967 or proper adjustment of rights of occupation."

In the instant case the mother was seeking to allow W back into her life. The court was not in a position to overrule her decision to live her life as she chose. What was before the court was the issue of whether she should have the children living with her.

The true issue before the judge was a residence issue and he never addressed it as such. He had concentrated on the unattractive qualities of W, forming an unfavourable view of him. He failed to look at the matter as a contested residence order application and was in error.

The appeal should be allowed and the matter sent back for full consideration of the competing claims by a different judge.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Cripps Harries Hall, Tunbridge Wells; Max Barford & Co, Tunbridge Wells.

Date of inquiry into local connection

Regina v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte Smith

A housing authority might properly test whether a homeless applicant had a local connection with its area at the date of the application. It did not need to wait until it had completed its investigations and made its decisions under Part III of the Housing Act 1985.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division so stated on March 12 when dismissing an application by Lynette Smith for judicial review of decisions of the London Borough of Newham that she had no local connection with the borough and should therefore be referred to another borough with which she had a connection by virtue of residence.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the applicant applied to Newham for housing in August 1994. It was accepted in June 1995 that she was entitled to be accommodated but, as the authority was not satisfied on the issue of local connection she would be referred to Manchester where she had lived until August 1994.

Rejecting the applicant's submission that a local connection with Newham had been formed by the date of the decision in June 1995, his Lordship stated that the date of application was the relevant test date.

However, a local authority should always be prepared to review its decision should there be such delay in its investigations under section 62 as to call for reconsideration of its decision on referral. Here it had done so and accordingly there was no ground for interfering with the authority's decision.

Shares maintain steady tone

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	480	Allied Domecq	496	-3	6.0	17.9
624	500	Bulmer (HP)	622		2.5	19.5
131	115	Bass Stewart	118	+1	5.4	25.1
464	411	Grand Met	428	+4	4.4	18.3
493	435	Guinness	461	+1	4.0	15.7
385	315	Highland Dist	359		2.8	16.7
195	150	Macallan-Glen	171	+1	1.1	
650	615	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	633		2.2	17.8
738	665	Matthew Clark	738	+10	3.7	
116	93	Mrydwn W	103	+1	2.4	
2612½	1912½	SA Breweries	1912½	-12½	1.6	28.9

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3306¼	2743¾	ABN-AMRO	3306¼	+28¼	4.3	
663	529	Abbey Natl	561	-1	4.8	10.8
385	322	Allied Irish	337	-2	4.3	
336	288	Aus New Z	303	+1	5.7	
5243¾	3843¾	Bank America	5032½	+68¾		
316	238½	Bank Scotland	257½	+4	3.0	11.4
819	683	Barclays	733	+9	4.4	9.6
488	422	Bk of Ireland	442	-2	3.8	8.9
482	424	Cater Allen	447		8.4	7.4
5368¾	4031¼	Citicorp	5237½	+50		
392	318	Close Brost	366	-2	3.1	16.2
£157¾	£142¾	Commerzbk	£149	+2¾	3.5	
1285¾	1171½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1271½	+3½	0.4	
3412½	2978¾	Deutsche Bk	3331¼	+68¾	2.2	
790¾	593¾	Esprito Santo	790¾	+3½	4.6	10.4
1507	1265½	Fuji Bank Y	1379¼	-1¾	0.4	
472	389	Gerrard Nat	400		7.0	12.9
252	196	Hambros	241		3.9	
1125	949	HSBC†	1011		4.0	11.7
1099	930	HSBC HK†	998	-2½	4.0	11.5
421	365	Irish Perm†	386		3.3	
165	143	King Shaxson	155		7.3	12.0
453	448	Leopold J	450		5.2	15.5
347½	294½	Lloyds TSB†	320½	+2	3.0	17.2
640	576	Nat Aust Bk	576	-2	7.5	7.4
711	608	Nat Wstmr†	640	-4	4.9	9.0
66	58	Rea Brothers†	58		2.2	
596	483	Ryl Bk Scot	504	+13	4.0	11.4
1380	1185	Schroders†	1248	+18	1.6	17.5
1128	880	Schroders N/V†	1000	+10	2.0	14.0
113	98½	Singer & Fried	103	+1	5.0	8.1
662½	547	Stand Chartr†	650	+13	2.1	14.2
105	85½	Union†	103		3.6	
£174¼	£131¾	Wells Fargo	£165¾	+100	1.8	
317½	264	Westpac	317¾	+4½	4.6	
305	258	Wintrust	300		4.9	17.2

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
535	435	Brammer	535	+2	3.4	
22	18	Bridgend Gp	21		1.2	
95	76	Brit Fittings†	95	+4	4.7	
285	245	Calyns	283		5.1	19.5
13¼	10½	Caverdale	13	- ½	2.8	
78	65½	Central Mtr	71		0.9	
92	78	Charles Sidney	85		5.4	13.4
61	54½	Cook (DC)	58		3.7	8.5
352	287	Cowie†	352	+3	3.7	13.2
165	120½	Dag Motors	165	+7	6.0	
163	125½	Dennis El	163		2.0	14.7
434	385	Diploma	413		4.4	13.4
378	326	Electrocomps	377	+6	2.0	25.6
314	271	Emrads Elec	300	+2	1.9	21.6
128	65	Eurodis	121	...	8.1	7.3
105	76	European Mtr	82		7.9	7.0
333	285	Evans Halshaw†	327	+2	8.3	
665	603	Farnell Elec	665	+12	1.8	19.3
67	57	Fite Indrs†	63		6.5	...
278	248	Finelist Grp	278	+2	2.5	16.3
24½	16½	Gardiner†	24		4.4	9.6
63½	33½	Glencheadon†	58½	...	2.0	
88	84	Gowrings	88		4.0	
250	216	Harris (Philip)	250		3.7	15.9
246	200½	Headlam▲	248	+15	2.5	
643	497	Henlys†	640		2.3	18.8
148	132	Holders Tech©	145		5.2	27.6
185	153	ISA Intl	177		1.7	
301	231	Inchcape†	283	+1	4.1	74.0
60	33	Jacks (Wm)	38		2.5	7.2
219	169	Kwik-Fit	211	-1	3.0	14.0
331	299	Lex Service†	317	-2	5.9	11.5
147¼	119	Lookers▼	124		8.0	
17	10½	Malaga Grp	14		6.0	
9¼	7½	Mccloskey©	7½		0.8	17.8
47	31	Metalistes	43	+2		
539	440	Norbain	532	+22	1.8	18.1
259	232	Northamber	258	+14	0.9	20.7
162	135	PCT©	147		6.5	10.5
291	272	Pendragon†	283	+7	4.0	14.4
188	145	Perry Gp	187		5.5	
158	135	Quicks Group†	154	-1	5.1	
245	185	REA	241	-1	2.1	28.7
3	2½	Reece	2½			
61	39	Ronson	44	+4½	3.6	8.9
3½	2	Ross Gp	3½			
55	49½	SEP Indl	50		4.0	11.7
16½	12	Sabre	18½	+ ½		9.4
386	246	Time Products	288		4.0	16.8
41	30	Torex Hire	35		4.6	18.4
293	268	Vardy (Reg)†	293	+1	2.6	16.3
368	325	Wholesale Fitgs†	368	+8	4.1	19.5
59	37¼	Wilshaw	37¼	+	2.6	9.0
118	78	Wyko†	113		1.9	
125	104	Young (H)	115	+4	4.2	13.4

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1200	1078	Henderson Ad	1078		5.2	19.8
285	236	Invesco†	251	-1	2.3	
44	41	Investment Co	43		6.6	13.2
238	228	Ivory Sime	232		4.3	17.2
230½	186	Jardine Strat	209¾	+2½	4.6	
130	98	Johnson Fry	118	-2	4.2	8.2
258	218	Lon Forfaitng†	256	-1	5.0	
254	218	London Pacific	253		7.6	
117	87½	Lon Scot Bk	106	-3½	2.9	22.0
161	138	Man ED & F	154	...	7.8	7.9
1354	1157	M & G	1163		3.4	23.3
470	304	MAI†	436	-8	3.1	19.4
172½	113½	MAI 5.6% Cv Pf	164	-1½	4.5	
916	841	MAM	916	+28½	3.8	20.2
109	95	Nat Home Loan	96		1.3	4.3
2255	1830	Perpetual	2208	-5	2.3	23.3
934	790	Provident†	934	+5	3.7	18.7
336	320	Rathbone Brs	326	+2	3.6	16.6
49½	37½	Rutland Tst	49½	+1	3.1	
385	290	S & U	384		4.2	11.3
127	100	SJP Capital	116		3.2	21.9
607	488½	Save Pacific	567¾	-4½	2.2	21.9
43	33	Tenny Lan	35		3.6	
356	329	Transatlantic†	354		5.1	20.2
7½	5	Trio Hldgs	6			

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
495	258	Lloyds Chem	475		2.8	18.1
174	145½	MFI	171	+5	3.1	25.5
463	416½	Marks Spencer	436½	-9½	3.0	18.9
635	525	Menzies (John)	562	+8	3.0	13.9
20	15½	Merchant Retail	16½			11.5
810	615	Moss Bros	795	+36	2.9	...
533	420	Next	533	+6	2.8	23.3
63	53	Oliver (G)	53	-1		
493	400	Oriflame Intl	489		2.9	19.5
75	66	Partridge Fine†	70		5.2	11.8
47	32	OS Hldgs	40	+1	4.8	
14	9½	Rhino Grp	10½	+ ½		
235	191	Rosebys	222		3.2	17.7
105	94	Sears	99½		5.0	15.8
34	14½	Signet Group	33½	+2½		
494	399	Smith WH	476	-1	4.1	27.6
995	820	Sotheby's	943	+8	2.0	
344	291	Storehouse	342	-1	2.4	21.1
120	90	Stylo	101		5.8	8.6
209	181	T & S Stores	201		4.5	
171	165	Tie Rack	170		2.0	17.8
3½	2½	Upton & South	3½			
568	542	Vendome	577		2.2	21.0
17	12	WEW Group	13		6.7	7.7
138	130	Wickes	128	-1	2.1	
84	52	Wid of Leather	72		2.8	
222	198	Wyevale†	216		3.1	

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2500	1660	Brit Biotech	2380	-58		
535	340	Cantab Pharms	511	+1		
692	473½	Celltech	514			
329	229	Chiroscience	230			
323	166	Cortecs	310	+23		
989	785	Glaxo Wellcome†	798	-10	4.7	16.2
286	208	Medeva†	243	+1	2.1	14.4
230	198	Peptide Thera	213			
633	534	Scotia	630			
223	183	Shire Pharms	198			
742	649	SmithKline†	687	-4	2.8	18.9
737	646	SmithKline Ulst	682	-4	2.6	19.8
1408	1216	Zeneca†	1401	+2	2.8	22.6

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BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Stock	Int yld %	Gross red yld
Treas 15¼% 1996	15.16	5.84
Exch 13¼% 1996	13.15	6.35
Treas 2% 1996	0.92	5.84
Conv 10% 1996	9.77	5.94
Treas 7% 1997	6.95	6.42
Treas 13¼% 1997	12.57	6.09
Exch 10½% 1997	10.14	6.12
Treas 8¾% 1997	8.50	6.47
Exch 15% 1997	13.38	6.58
Exch 9¾% 1998	9.29	6.73
Treas 7¼% 1998	7.20	6.83
Treas 6¾% 1995-98	6.77	6.90
Treas 14% 1998-01	12.32	6.95
Treas 15½% 1998	13.03	6.99
Exch 12% 1998	10.77	7.10
Treas 9½% 1999	8.98	7.13
Exch 12¼% 1999	10.82	7.20
Treas 10½% 1999	9.63	7.21
Treas 6% 1999	6.23	7.24
Conv 10¼% 1999	9.40	7.37
Conv 9% 2000	8.55	7.41
Treas 8% 2000	7.84	7.47
Treas 13% 2000	10.86	7.51
Treas 10% 2001	9.12	7.80

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Stock	Int yld %	Gross red yld
Treas 7% 2001	7.21	7.66
Treas 9¾% 2002	8.89	7.80
Treas 8% 2003	7.93	7.85
Treas 10% 2003	8.96	7.89
Treas 11½% 2001-04	9.99	7.75
Fund 3½% 1999-04	4.39	6.77
Conv 9½% 2004	8.72	8.03
Treas 6¾% 2004	7.32	8.01
Treas 8½% 2005	8.25	8.04
Conv 9½% 2005	8.71	8.06
Treas 12½% 2003-05	9.99	8.02
Treas 7½% 2006	7.83	8.09
Treas 7¾% 2006	7.96	8.12
Treas 8% 2002-06	8.06	8.16
Treas 11¾% 2003-07	9.84	7.98
Treas 8½% 2007	8.30	8.16
Treas 13½% 2004-08	10.25	8.02
Treas 9% 2008	8.47	8.18
Treas 8% 2009	8.15	8.22

LONGS (over 15 years)

Stock	Int yld %	Gross red yld
Treas 6¼% 2010	7.53	8.27
Conv 9% 2011	8.48	8.27
Treas 9% 2012	8.47	8.29
Treas 5½% 2008-12	7.11	8.07
Treas 8% 2013	8.32	8.29
Treas 7¾% 2012-15	8.18	8.28
Treas 8% 2015	8.22	8.29
Treas 8¾% 2017	8.39	8.32
Exch 12% 2013-17	9.04	8.40
Treas 8% 2021	8.22	8.26

UNDATED

Stock	Int yld %	Gross red yld
War Ln 3½%	8.33	..
Treas 2½%	8.39	.
Consols 4%	8.43	...

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

Stock	10%	5%
Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	1.72	3.01
Treas IL 2½% 2001	3.12	3.62
Treas IL 2½% 2003	3.27	3.65
Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	3.31	3.66
Treas IL 2% 2006	3.40	3.67
Treas IL 2½% 2009	3.48	3.70
Treas IL 2½% 2011	3.52	3.72
Treas IL 2½% 2013	3.56	3.74
Treas IL 2½% 2016	3.60	3.77
Treas IL 2½% 2020	3.64	3.78
Treas IL 2½% 2024	3.62	3.75
Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	3.63	3.76

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Groland Amer	210.30	222.50	+ 2.00	0.15
Groland Equity	278.80	296.60	+ 1.90	1.83
Groland Euro	271.30	287.10	+ 1.70	0.57
Groland Expl Bal	129.10	133.80	.	2.63
Groland Gilt	75.71	78.05	+ 0.05	6.31
Groland Japan	185.90	196.70	− 1.10	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	649.70	691.20†	+ 3.70	2.56
General Inc	551.90	587.20†	+ 3.10	2.56
UK Growth Acc	440.90	469.10†	+ 2.40	2.77
UK Growth Inc	289.50	308.00†	+ 1.60	2.77
Higher Inc Acc	789.50	839.90†	+ 1.10	4.23
Higher Inc Inc	430.70	458.20†	+ 0.50	4.23
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	204.90	216.40†	+ 0.60	5.68
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	91.89	95.84†	+ 0.25	5.68
Nth America	367.10	390.60†	+ 3.30	
Europe	353.20	375.80†	+ 2.40	0.38
Brit Excell	87.30	92.88	+ 0.59	2.91
Brit Friendls Acc	114.50	121.90†		4.81
Brit Friendls Inc	78.49	83.50†	+ 0.02	4.81
Global Opps	103.80	110.50	+ 0.90	0.23
Balanced Acc	63.00	67.00†	+ 0.25	2.65
Balanced Inc	59.54	63.36†	+ 0.24	2.65
Japan Acc	49.30	52.45†	− 0.21	
Pac Basin Acc	430.10	457.60†	+ 3.20	0.78
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	127.80	135.60†	− 0.40	7.37
High Inc Equity	181.10	193.70†	+ 0.50	4.35
Worldwide Bond	288.80	306.20	− 0.90	4.57
American Growth	361.50	386.70	+ 1.60	0.19
Asian Pacific	353.20	377.60	+ 3.40	0.06
Assets & Earnings	304.40	323.80	− 0.90	2.69
Euro Capital Acc	178.00	190.40	+ 0.90	0.54
Extra Inc	44.40	47.23†	+ 0.11	8.51
General	274.50	292.00	+ 1.00	2.85
Global Opps	66.97	71.24	+ 0.49	0.42
Japan	131.80	141.00	+ 0.90	
Managed Inc	48.18	51.23†	+ 0.13	4.54
Mastertrust	168.00	179.70	+ 1.10	1.47
US Emerging Cos	201.20	214.00	+ 2.50	
Ethical	81.10	86.28	+ 0.47	2.63
International	139.90	148.80	+ 0.90	0.57
Dividend & Growth	67.71	72.03	+ 0.16	4.26
Global Grth & Soc	72.57	77.48	+ 0.16	2.58
Latin America	58.66	62.40	+ 0.24	
Capital Reserve	142.90	142.90	− 0.10	5.25
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2154.00	2241.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Ama Inc & Growth	58.60	60.84†	− 0.16	0.50
Emerging Mkts	72.60	76.63	+ 0.09	0.04
European	148.30	154.20	+ 0.40	
Express	1038.40	1086.50†	+ 5.50	1.70
Extra Income #	46.41	49.81†	+ 0.04	6.40
Far East Emg Ecn	136.70	143.50	+ 0.80	0.44
Fixed Interest #	24.29	25.26	+ 0.10	9.30
Fund Inv Tst	148.70	156.10†	− 0.10	9.97
Japan	191.60	199.30	− 0.60	
Latin American	53.40	55.73	− 0.19	0.88
Pacific	88.78	93.22†	− 0.61	0.38
Property Share	64.19	67.38	− 0.05	2.60
UK Emerging Cos	70.79	76.11	− 0.15	1.63
UK Growth	51.44	54.36†	− 0.26	2.16
Abtr World Port #	82.75	84.27	− 0.33	1.94
Ethical	77.67	80.77	+ 0.30	2.18
Aberdeen Gth Inc #	50.01	54.01†	+ 0.01	7.51

For AEGON, see Matheson

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	99.25	105.84	...	2.41
American Portfolio	118.40	125.72	.	0.90
European Portfolio	126.66	135.15†	.	0.43
High Income	50.41	50.52	...	7.92
Japanese Portfolio	72.51	77.12†	+ 0.43	..
Pacific Portfolio	163.03	175.31	+ 1.38	1.38
UK Equity	93.96	100.43†	..	2.32
UK Equity & Bd	58.29	58.98		6.47
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	751.12	762.49		4.25
Fxd Int Sec	152.63	153.25		9.27
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	734.54	745.64	..	4.40
Investment Acc	533.11	533.81	..	
Fixed Int Inc	123.20	122.70	.	9.38
Fixed Int Acc	214.41	215.27		..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	88.21	93.13	− 1.42	3.19
Beck Bio-Tech	48.26	51.67	.	
Acorn Ethical Tst	174.10	182.82		0.59
City Fin Assets	78.66	82.60†		1.98
City Fin America	119.28	125.25†	+ 0.16	
City Fin Intl	94.45	101.48	− 0.82	0.81
City Fin Japan	159.40	167.38	+ 2.17	
Frizzel Hse Cap	320.83	341.31		2.19
Frizzel Hse Inc	204.54	217.60		4.07
Buckley Wrld Gth	151.77	160.88†	+ 0.78	.
Fabiane Cap Gth	156.44	163.62	...	...
Fairground Intl	166.16	174.91	.	...
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	58.18	61.09		1.57
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.41	63.03	− 0.64	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	78.07	83.05	+ 0.03	
Dragon Growth	78.04	81.32	+ 0.48	0.34
Equity High Inc	89.87	95.39†	+ 0.23	4.20
-do- Accum	126.21	134.27	+ 0.33	4.20
Extra Income Inc	25.67	27.02†	− 0.04	7.79
Extra Income Acc	27.46	28.91	− 0.04	7.79
European Gwth	63.35	67.21	+ 0.44	0.96
Evergreen	30.64	32.77	− 0.14	0.04
General Equity	100.31	106.43	− 0.53	2.91
Japan Growth	53.81	57.24	+ 0.40	.
Portugue Gwth	61.52	65.45	+ 0.36	2.44
Pcd Sm Cos Inc	36.66	39.00	+ 0.06	1.49
-do- Accum	38.61	41.07	+ 0.07	1.49
Retirement Inc #	27.82	29.60	+ 0.05	5.95
Special Sits	46.62	49.60	+ 0.29	1.97
UK & Overseas	59.22	62.93	+ 0.40	0.67
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	67.12	69.82	+ 0.10	4.11
Capital	80.76	84.01	− 0.43	2.33
High Income	50.07	52.09	− 0.13	7.38
Top 50	54.72	56.92	− 0.38	2.14
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	181.98	193.60†	+ 0.56	4.75
Fixed & Convertible	40.51	43.10†	− 0.03	6.74
Monthly Inc Plus	48.51	51.61†	+ 0.14	8.68
Preference Share	46.50	49.47†	+ 0.30	8.06
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	132.66	141.13†	+ 0.66	6.04
Managed Fund	76.30	81.17†	+ 0.40	2.89

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	78.15	83.24†	+ 0.63	
-do- Accum	78.15	83.24†	+ 0.63	
Amer Smllr Cos	661.00	707.00	+ 4.00	
-do- Accum	675.30	722.20	+ 4.00	
Capital Tst	374.90	398.80†	+ 0.50	1.24
-do- Accum	547.60	582.80†	+ 0.70	1.24
Cont Smllr Cos	65.47	69.79	− 0.18	0.75
-do- Accum	69.08	73.64	− 0.19	0.75
Convertible	140.40	149.40	+ 0.50	5.18
-do- Accum	298.10	317.10	+ 1.00	5.18
Emerging Markets	70.20	75.00	+ 0.19	.
-do- Accum	70.43	75.25	+ 0.19	.
European	144.10	152.70	+ 0.90	0.36
-do- Accum	151.50	160.60	+ 1.00	0.36
Extra Income	380.50	404.80	+ 1.50	3.75
-do- Accum	592.30	630.10	+ 2.40	3.75
Financial	161.60	171.90	− 1.10	0.40
-do- Accum	171.10	182.00	− 1.10	0.40
Gilt Trust	62.72	64.67†	+ 0.12	6.77
-do- Accum	94.80	97.75†	+ 0.19	6.77
Health Fund Inc	275.00	293.80	+ 1.20	..
-do- Accum	275.00	293.80	+ 1.20	...
Income & Growth	228.00	242.80	+ 1.30	3.32
-do- Accum	358.50	379.30	+ 2.10	3.32
Intl Growth	437.30	465.58	+ 1.80	
-do- Accum	485.60	517.90	+ 1.90	..
Japan & Gen	187.90	199.70†	+ 1.50	.
-do- Accum	189.80	201.70†	+ 1.50	
Monthly Inc #	189.10	201.20†	+ 0.50	4.62
Managed Port Inc	120.60	126.90†	+ 0.40	1.65
-do- Accum	130.90	137.80†	+ 0.50	1.65
Quarterly Income #	56.42	60.51†	+ 0.17	4.40
-do- Accum #	63.12	67.70†	+ 0.19	4.40
Recovery	369.20	394.90	+ 2.60	0.60
-do- Accum	435.90	466.20	+ 3.10	0.60
UK Growth	65.57	69.76	+ 0.27	2.09
-do- Accum	69.50	73.94	+ 0.30	2.09
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	59.54	63.34	+ 0.09	0.39
FP Am Smllr Cos	198.20	211.90	+ 1.30	.
FP Asian Growth	302.10	323.10	+ 1.50	..
FP Australian	411.50	441.50	+ 5.30	..
FP Equity Dist	445.00	473.30	+ 1.90	2.53
-do- Accum	964.50	1010.35	+ 4.80	2.53
FP Euro Gth	272.40	289.70	+ 1.20	0.25
-do- Accum	297.80	316.80	+ 1.30	0.25
FP Intl Bond	60.20	63.70	+ 0.20	5.04
FP Intl Gth Dist	38.82	41.43	+ 0.22	0.39
-do- Accum	56.68	60.49	+ 0.32	0.39
FP Pac Basin Acc	232.70	248.70	+ 1.90	
FP Income #	59.33	63.28	+ 0.29	4.93
-do- Accum #	200.50	213.80	+ 0.90	4.93
FP Jap Smllr Cos	318.30	339.40	+ 2.80	
FP Monthly Dist #	74.99	80.03	+ 0.24	5.59
FP Stlg Deposit	100.20	100.20		5.35
FP Tokyo	88.38	94.18	− 0.75	.
FP UK Focus	41.71	44.64	+ 0.37	2.54
FP UK Growth	193.10	205.80	+ 1.40	2.53
-do- Accum	383.30	408.80	+ 2.80	2.53
Stewardship Dist	408.60	434.60	+ 0.80	1.77
-do- Accum	508.50	540.90	+ 0.90	1.77
Stewdshp Inc Dist #	80.01	85.11	+ 0.12	4.78
-do- Accum #	107.40	114.20	+ 0.10	4.78
N Am Stshp Dist	120.10	127.70	+ 1.60	0.71
-do- Accum	128.70	136.90	+ 1.70	0.71
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Grth Acc	126.10	134.10	− 0.20	1.24
Open Cap Gth Acc	130.20	138.50	− 0.10	0.18
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	118.60	126.10	− 0.20	2.51
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	124.10	132.00	− 0.20	2.51
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	120.20	127.80	− 0.10	3.54
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	126.50	134.50	− 0.10	3.54
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GARDIA	281.60	298.00	− 1.30	2.07
Cash	49.63	50.37†		5.28
Growth Portfolio	90.56	95.99	+ 0.45	0.85

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smllr Cos	178.66	190.60	+ 0.91	2.71
European Value	87.34	92.88†	+ 0.40	1.28
-do- Accum	93.93	99.89	+ 0.43	1.28
Japan Trust	243.56	259.02	+ 1.35	..
Japan Special Sits	252.80	269.16†	+ 1.73	...
Pacific Smllr Cos	264.90	284.55†	+ 3.84	..
North American	309.05	327.86	− 0.07	..
American Smaller	173.52	185.62	+ 1.54	.
HIGH PEAK UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Income & Growth #	156.30	164.60	+ 0.40	4.83
HILL SAMUEL UNIT TST MGRS				
0181 686 4355				
British	117.94	123.49	+ 0.89	1.82
Capital	204.58	214.20	+ 1.02	1.21
Dollar	480.07	502.69	+ 1.15	..
Enterprise Gth	413.43	432.81†	+ 2.88	1.23
European	278.63	291.78	+ 1.96	0.38
Far East	349.98	366.45	+ 2.63	.
Financial	985.93	1010.32†	+ 6.39	1.99
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	25.92	26.96	− 0.01	8.20
High Yield	110.14	115.33	+ 0.36	3.90
Income & Growth	159.64	167.17	+ 0.60	3.27
International	304.90	318.95	+ 1.37	...
Japanese General	232.44	243.39	+ 1.29	
Japan Tech	97.80	102.41	+ 0.43	
Nat Resources	95.94	100.46†	+ 0.72	
Portfolio	88.15	98.21	+ 0.45	1.28
Special Sits	187.16	208.45†	+ 1.35	0.39
UK Emerging Cos	118.84	124.44	+ 0.48	0.83
US Smaller Cos	142.20	148.91	+ 1.31	.
HSBC UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Advisers 0800 181 890 Investors 0800 289 505				
Active Funds-UK				
Income #	624.50	665.50	+ 2.50	5.09
Capital	702.70	749.90†	+ 4.20	2.40
Balanced #	112.30	119.80†	− 0.50	5.98
Active Funds-International				
American Gwth	680.00	697.20†	− 0.40	0.55
European Gwth	142.60	151.80	+ 0.60	.
Japan Gwth	307.50	328.20	+ 0.80	.
Japan Smllr Cos	34.91	37.26	+ 0.12	..
Asian	68.78	73.40	+ 0.39	0.09
Sing & Malay Gwth	93.99	100.30	+ 1.35	
Hong Kong Gwth	134.10	143.10†	+ 0.30	1.25
Global Bond	22.79	24.08	− 0.04	5.41
Index Funds-UK				
UK Index	163.80	164.60	+ 0.90	3.44
Triple Index	125.60	128.90†	+ 0.20	2.19
THE FOOTSIE FUND	63.20	63.52	+ 0.42	3.03
Index Funds-International				
American Index	271.90	273.30	+ 0.10	1.16
Eurotrack 100	195.90	196.90	− 1.10	1.09
Japan Index	85.76	86.19	+ 0.27	0.22
Tiger Index	226.60	227.70	− 1.80	0.43
INVESCO FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 626 3434 Dealing: 0800 010 733				
UK Specialist Funds				
UK Smaller Cos	45.19	46.98†	+ 0.38	0.69
General Funds				
Managed Dist	87.96	91.43	− 0.14	1.24
Managed	89.83	93.38	− 0.14	1.24
Rupert Child Fnd	98.51	102.40†	+ 0.60	2.11
UK Growth	69.41	72.15	+ 0.38	1.93
High Income Funds				
UK Extra Inc	86.69	90.10†	+ 0.33	6.66
Gilt & Fixed Int	26.24	27.07†	− 0.01	6.34
UK Inc & Gwth	46.89	48.74	+ 0.29	3.03
UK Income	368.80	383.40	+ 1.30	4.66
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Growth	61.37	63.69†	− 0.01	0.11
Amer Smllr Cos	158.50	164.80	− 2.30	
-do- Accum	160.20	166.50	− 2.30	
Europe Gth	224.30	232.70	− 0.20	
-do- Accum	232.30	241.00	− 0.30	..
Euro Smaller Cos	43.22	44.93	+ 0.05	..
French Growth	97.81	101.60†	+ 1.00	0.33

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc	101.50	106.90	− 0.50	3.99
Sector Value Gwth	101.80	107.20	+ 0.50	2.26
Hy 5 Equity	103.10	108.00	+ 0.90	1.85
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	219.00	233.00	+ 0.29	
Income #	203.10	216.06	− 0.53	3.96
UK Growth	79.85	84.95	− 0.32	2.02
Intl Growth	88.40	94.03	− 0.23	0.45
Ecology	102.35	108.89†	+ 0.26	0.99
European	183.90	195.64	+ 0.87	.
Far Eastern	331.30	352.40	+ 1.20	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits Growth	26.04	27.70†	− 0.10	2.01
UK Growth	439.45	467.49†	− 1.99	2.63
-do- Accum	596.43	634.49	+ 2.71	2.63
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01629 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1488.60	1509.50	.	2.90
Income #	1032.00	1042.90		4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	161.10	165.40		3.66

For Manulife see Canada Life

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
-do- Accum	116.00	123.59	+ 0.89	..
Master Trust	67.57	71.93	+ 0.32	1.16
-do- Accum	76.76	81.67	+ 0.36	1.16
N American Gen	238.40	253.70	+ 0.40	0.01
-do- Accum	275.70	293.30	+ 0.30	0.01
NAm Sm Co Rec	195.90	208.50	+ 2.60	.
-do- Accum	200.00	212.80	+ 2.80	
Pacific Basin	291.50	310.20	+ 3.00	0.06
-do- Accum	310.50	330.40	+ 3.20	0.06
Small Cos Rec	490.00	515.80	+ 1.90	1.55
-do- Accum	667.90	702.50	+ 2.60	1.55
UK Eq Gth	159.90	170.20†	+ 2.90	2.64
UK Eq Inc	124.40	132.40†	+ 0.60	4.23
UK Growth	101.80	108.30	+ 0.50	1.87
-do- Accum	126.40	134.50	+ 0.70	1.87
Worldwide Gth	366.30	389.70	+ 1.50	.
-do- Accum	541.40	576.00	+ 2.20	
LONDON & MANCHESTER TST MGMT				
01392 282 673				
American	88.14	92.19	+ 0.32	0.40
General	104.28	111.80	+ 0.58	2.30
Income	71.35	76.55†	− 0.23	5.20
International	76.46	82.03	+ 0.52	0.40
Japan	63.31	67.92	+ 0.36	..
Tst of Inv Trusts	75.51	81.02†	− 0.08	1.40
M & G SECURITIES				
Cust Svcs/Unit Dlg: 01245 390 390				
Amer & General	525.50	555.10	+ 2.90	0.37
-do- Accum	656.70	693.70	+ 3.60	0.37
Amer Recovery	569.00	601.70	+ 6.10	0.34
-do- Accum	655.60	693.30	+ 7.00	0.34
Amer Smllr Cos	163.90	173.30	+ 1.40	.
-do- Accum	167.50	177.00	+ 1.40	...
Australasian	195.50	208.70	+ 1.70	2.11
-do- Accum	243.60	257.40	+ 2.20	2.11
Capital	972.20	1028.10	+ 5.30	2.82
-do- Accum	1145.60	1211.40	+ 6.20	2.82
Charifund	756.00	763.60	+ 2.70	5.66
-do- Accum	3749.00	3786.50	+ 10.40	5.66
Commodity	511.30	540.70	+ 2.10	0.28
-do- Accum	754.00	797.30	+ 3.10	0.28
Compound Grth	1089.00	1151.60	+ 5.00	2.99
-do- Accum	1171.70	1239.00	+ 5.40	2.99
Corporate Bond	24.44	24.53†	+ 0.05	7.90
Dividend	45.20	47.80	+ 0.18	4.39
-do- Accum	196.90	208.30	+ 0.30	4.39
Equity Income	353.60	373.90	+ 0.60	4.94
-do- Accum	478.90	506.30	+ 0.60	4.94
Euro & General	635.90	672.50	+ 4.80	0.87
-do- Accum	811.00	857.60	+ 6.20	0.87
Euro Dividend	82.10	86.80	+ 0.10	3.53
-do- Accum	102.00	107.80	− 0.10	3.53
Extra Yield	455.00	481.20†	+ 0.90	4.99
-do- Accum	1498.50	1584.70†	+ 2.80	4.99
Far Eastern	399.70	422.70	+ 4.20	1.06
-do- Accum	533.20	563.90	+ 5.80	1.06
Fund of Inv Tsts	697.80	737.90	+ 1.80	1.88
-do- Accum	1325.80	1402.00	+ 1.90	1.88
General	68.80	72.80	+ 0.30	3.70
-do- Accum	200.10	211.70	+ 0.90	3.70
Gilt Income	60.12	60.21	− 0.22	7.20
-do- Accum	176.19	176.45	+ 0.81	7.20
Gold	86.90	90.80	+ 0.10	0.10
-do- Accum	102.00	107.80	..	0.10
High Income	32.70	34.60	− 0.10	4.62
-do- Accum	136.68	144.70	+ 0.40	4.62
Intl Growth	94.70	100.10	+ 0.40	0.67
-do- Accum	166.60	176.30	+ 0.90	0.67
International Inc	113.30	119.80	+ 0.60	4.39
-do- Accum	175.20	185.10	+ 0.70	4.39
Japan & Gen	43.60	46.00	+ 0.30	
-do- Accum	46.60	49.40	+ 0.30	
Japan Smlr Cos	153.20	162.00	+ 1.30	.
-do- Accum	154.37	163.10	+ 1.20	.
Managed Gwth	27.30	28.80	+ 0.10	1.65
Managed Income	29.90	31.40†		4.13
Midland	64.30	68.00	+ 0.20	3.27
-do- Accum	220.70	233.50	+ 0.80	3.27
Pension Ex	1070.80	1097.60	+ 4.40	4.30
Recovery	49.30	52.10	+ 0.20	2.63

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt & Fixed	94.25	99.99	+ 0.36	5.55
Income	98.14	104.41	+ 0.40	2.45
Japan Growth	55.84	59.19	+ 0.61	.
Managed	80.36	85.49	− 0.34	2.06
Money Market	92.56	98.12	+ 0.01	4.09
North American	108.80	115.30	− 2.40	0.33
Midland FSAVCS Unit Trust				
British	114.80	122.10	+ 0.70	1.45
European Growth	122.60	130.00	− 0.20	0.01
Gilt & Fixed Int	89.22	94.65	+ 0.37	5.56
Income	96.26	102.40	+ 0.40	2.51
Japan Growth	55.54	58.87	+ 0.60	..
Managed	77.40	82.34	+ 0.22	2.02
Money Market	85.42	90.55	+ 0.01	4.06
North American	98.32	104.20	− 2.10	0.47
Midland Executive Pension Unit Trust				
British	114.30	121.60	+ 0.70	1.44
European Growth	120.00	127.20	− 0.20	
Gilt & Fixed Int	81.65	86.63	+ 0.31	5.70
Income	94.28	100.30	+ 0.43	2.55
Japan Growth	56.82	60.23	+ 0.61	..
Managed	80.23	85.35	+ 0.34	2.03
Money Market	78.95	83.69	..	4.18
North American	110.10	116.70	− 2.30	0.36
MILLENNIUM FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
International (US$)	15.09	15.99	..	..
MORGAN GRENFELL INVEST FDS LTD				
Dealers: 0171 588 7474 Enquiries: 0171 588 7171				
American Gwth	458.10	486.60†	− 0.50	.
European Gth Inc	653.70	686.60	− 3.40	.
-do- Accum	660.80	704.20	− 3.40	...
Intl Gwth	235.30	250.10	+ 0.80	.
UK Equity Inc	214.60	228.90	+ 0.80	3.54
Do. Accum	287.98	306.19	+ 1.09	3.54
UK Ind Techr Inc	288.00	300.60†	+ 1.00	2.49
-do- Accum	229.10	244.40†	+ 1.20	2.49
US Eq Ind Trk Inc	269.00	294.60	+ 0.40	0.83
Japan Tracker	80.72	85.12	+ 0.22	.
Asian Tracker	243.80	262.20	+ 2.30	0.16
Managed Inc	187.90	200.00	− 0.30	2.17
Deposit Inc	99.75	99.75†	+ 0.01	5.41
Europe	317.70	340.30	− 0.50	
Genesis	259.50	279.70	+ 0.50	1.59
High Income	21.24	22.52	+ 0.06	10.00
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UT MGMT				
0345 090 933				
Acumen	127.90	133.40	+ 0.40	2.20
Acumen Inc	98.84	101.10	+ 0.40	2.20
Acumen Reserve	90.67	91.51	− 0.10	8.23
-do- Inc	72.07	72.73	+ 0.08	8.23
American Growth	67.36	69.38	− 0.40	
Cash Income	49.89	49.89		5.36
Equity Income #	102.50	105.50†		4.57
European	81.29	82.74	+ 0.44	0.60
Smaller Cos	89.52	92.96		1.07
Wwide Eq	78.39	80.12	+ 0.46	
Global Bond	45.98	46.50	− 0.03	6.16
UK Growth	113.35	[illegible]	+ 0.40	1.86
Pacific Growth	150.80	155.40	+ 1.40	0.54
Japan Growth	110.20	112.30	− 0.40	...
NFU MUTUAL UNIT MGRS LTD				
Enquiries: 01277 227 360 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
Avon Equity	144.32	152.22	− 0.43	2.35
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
0161 237 5322				
UK Growth	87.52	92.27	− 0.49	2.23
UK Income	122.95	131.87	− 0.43	3.91
Higher Income	135.35	145.54	− 0.43	5.06
Smaller Cos	101.52	107.26†	− 0.51	1.71
International	112.23	119.46	− 0.57	1.40
NPI INVESTMENT MGRS				
0171 623 4200				
American Dist	132.40	141.30	− 0.60	0.30
European Dist	144.70	153.90	− 0.30	[illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits	142.50	151.60	+ 0.10	1.47
-do- Accum	158.90	168.98	+ 0.10	1.47
Technology	720.30	768.20	+ 6.70	.
UK Blue Chip	85.19	90.63	− 0.38	2.99
-do- Accum	97.29	104.76	− 0.40	2.99
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0181 478 3377 Client Enq: 0171 911 4480				
Managed Tst	45.82	47.48	+ 0.19	1.74
Cash Haven Inc	101.52	102.01	+ 0.01	4.91
Cash Haven Acc	116.71	117.20	+ 0.01	4.91
Dist Trust Inc	104.50	108.28	+ 0.34	6.41
Dist Trust Acc	115.68	119.87	+ 0.37	6.41
Global Growth	106.73	113.54	+ 0.56	1.17
Equity Inc	93.18	99.12	+ 1.77	4.40
Equity	859.91	914.79		2.39
European	265.72	275.35	+ 1.89	0.78
High Income	92.27	98.15	+ 0.18	5.29
Intl Gth	225.68	240.08	+ 0.94	0.83
Intl Sm Co	97.23	103.43	+ 0.54	0.65
Japanese	236.38	244.96	+ 0.56	
Nth Amer	236.61	245.19	− 0.51	1.36
Pacific Mkts	126.07	131.40	+ 0.54	0.64
Premier Inc	42.50	49.44	− 0.18	6.67
Sm Cos	110.13	117.15	+ 0.25	1.39
Spec Sits	127.93	136.09	+ 2.36	2.55
UK Growth	145.98	156.17	+ 2.38	2.29
RELIANCE UNIT MGRS LTD				
01892 510 033				
British Life	335.30	355.70†	+ 1.50	3.22
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT				
Dealers: 0171 623 1800				
FA America (Inc)	658.44	699.59	− 5.80	0.61
FA America (Acc)	770.04	818.17	+ 6.78	0.61
FA UK Equity Inc	181.63	193.70	+ 0.81	3.47
FA Japan	257.93	274.36	− 0.15	...
FA Major UK Cos	112.77	120.14	− 0.61	1.87
FA Smllr UK Cos	362.12	384.06†	+ 1.20	0.97
FA European	409.67	435.02	+ 1.99	0.26
FA Amer Smllr Cos	59.22	63.23	+ 0.85	.
FA Asia	59.95	64.31	+ 0.54	.
FA Jap Smllr Cos	46.05	49.21	+ 0.25	
RAM Personal Pension				
UK Major Cos	118.29	124.51	+ 0.65	.
UK Smllr Cos	106.63	112.23	+ 0.34	.
UK Income	116.29	122.40	+ 0.51	..
America	132.76	139.74	+ 1.16	.
Japanese	57.04	60.04	− 0.04	
European	132.19	139.14	+ 0.63	..
Gilt	95.76	100.82	+ 0.43	
Deposit	88.44	93.09	..	
Managed	114.27	120.28	+ 0.54	.
RAM FSAVC Scheme				
UK Major Cos	115.00	121.04	+ 0.61	
UK Smaller Cos	103.97	109.43	+ 0.32	
UK Income	113.26	119.21	+ 0.49	
America	129.00	135.78	+ 1.13	
Japanese	55.43	58.34	− 0.03	
European	128.60	135.36	+ 0.62	
Gilt	93.61	98.53	+ 0.43	
Deposit	84.67	89.08		
Managed	107.05	112.68	− 0.33	
ROYAL LIFE FD MGMT LTD				
Prices: 01733 282 828 Gen Enq: 01733 390 000				
United States	116.50	124.10	+ 0.90	0.25
Pacific Basin	86.65	92.98	+ 0.49	0.24
High Inc Dist	152.30	162.70†	+ 0.50	4.19
Ryl Life Int Cnty	63.55	67.29†	+ 0.15	2.06
Ryl Life Intl Gwth	80.92	86.28	+ 0.41	0.12
Ryl Life Intl Spec	74.12	78.85†	+ 0.41	
UK Emerging Cos	151.70	163.98	+ 0.20	0.94
UK Index Trckg	192.30	204.90		3.21
European	163.20	175.20	+ 0.70	0.27
Managed	180.00	193.50	+ 0.60	1.82

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Growth Inc	238.80	254.10	+ 0.80	0.76
Wwide Venture Inc	95.40	101.50†	+ 0.30	1.06
SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND MGMT				
0131 655 3724				
Equity Inc	430.00	458.60	+ 2.60	2.37
-do- Accum	652.00	695.40	+ [illegible]	2.37
UK High Inc	203.30	216.90		3.40
-do- Accum	310.00	330.70	+ [illegible]	3.40
Europe Inc	467.40	498.40	+ [illegible]	0.51
Nth Amer Inc	330.40	331.00	+ 1.80	
Global Inc	261.40	278.80	− 0.30	0.23
Global Acc	281.80	300.30	− 0.40	0.23
UK Spec Sits Inc	128.30	137.40	− [illegible]	1.79
South East Asn	264.20	281.80	+ 4.00	0.22
Cash Trust Inc	101.50	[illegible]		[illegible]
UK Smllr Cos Inc	122.20	130.30	+ 0.20	1.05
-do- Accum	127.30	135.70	+ 0.20	1.05
Intl Bond Inc	96.92	102.90	− 0.10	5.37
SHARP (ALBERT E)				
Enquiries: 01277 227 300 Dealing: 01277 261 010				
European	158.10	168.40	+ 0.70	0.64
Nth American	139.70	147.00	+ 0.90	0.04
Intl Bond & Conv	128.60	136.40	− 0.50	6.60
Pooled Pension (C)	227.50	241.60	− 2.80	7.15
Smaller Cos	107.40	113.00	+ 0.30	0.61
UK General	159.60	168.00	+ 0.60	2.30
Far Eastern	108.70	114.40	+ 0.30	
SINGER & FRIEDLANDER INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD				
0171 626 6226				
Amer Gth Fund ‡	127.22	†	+ 0.15	
Asian ‡	66.71	†	+ 0.02	
European ‡	165.72	†	+ 1.54	0.28
Global Bond ‡	91.57	†	− 0.22	7.65
Investment Trust ‡	112.42	†	+ 0.23	1.92
Preferred Income ‡	105.73	†	+ 0.22	5.92
Samurai ‡	61.66	†	+ 0.42	
Sterling Reserve ‡	100.15	†	+ 0.01	5.89
UK Growth ‡	109.28	†	+ 0.29	2.79
Tst Pan ‡	131.34	†	+ 1.34	
UK Emerg Leaders ‡	111.50	†	+ 0.15	2.72
UK Equity Inc ‡	113.08	†		5.33
Glob Gwth PEP	76.65	81.54	+ 0.37	1.21
Pref Inc PEP #	103.10	108.70†	+ 0.10	5.58
Inv Trust PEP	55.96	59.53	+ 0.06	
SMITH & WILLIAMSON UT MGRS				
0171 637 5377				
American	446.90	472.80	− 4.50	
Capital	146.80	158.90	− 0.20	1.76
Cash	100.28	100.28†	+ 0.06	5.31
European	167.20	176.60	− 1.20	0.97
Far Eastern	171.90	181.30	+ 0.30	
Growth	160.80	170.00	− 2.20	1.16
Income #	135.70	143.80†	+ 0.10	4.67
Magnum	157.50	168.30†	− 0.30	1.88
Smllr Secs	497.30	528.10†	− 0.30	0.27
Thoroughbred	183.70	198.40†	− 0.26	1.37
SOVEREIGN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01202 298 422				
Capital Reserve	56.20	60.11	− 0.15	7.06
Ethical	79.92	85.48†	+ 0.78	0.39
European Growth	84.44	89.83	+ 0.62	1.73
Income	60.75	64.97	− 0.14	4.90
Intl Growth	117.30	125.10	+ 0.90	1.17
Managed	96.54	102.90	+ 0.60	1.95
UK Growth	77.57	82.98	− 0.14	1.14
STANDARD LIFE UNIT TRUSTS				
0800 393 777				
Standard Life Fund Mngmt Ltd				
Global Advtg Inc	46.91	47.15	+ 0.10	1.76
Global Advtg Acc	50.84	51.18	+ 0.10	1.76
Income Advtg Inc	35.82	35.88†		3.48
Income Advtg Acc	40.88	41.07		3.48
UK Equity Gth Acc	92.03	97.96		1.30

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	97.61	101.60†	− 0.30	7.71
Gilt Yield	118.10	122.50†	+ 0.30	6.94
Global Income	236.50	251.80	+ 1.20	3.44
High Yield	150.80	160.40†	− 0.40	5.59
-do- Accum	485.00	516.00†	+ 1.40	5.59
Smllr Cos Div	60.39	64.34	− 0.15	3.23
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	147.60	157.00	+ 1.70	
Asian Growth	368.60	390.00	+ 3.70	0.21
-do- Accum	430.90	458.40	+ 3.20	0.21
North American	106.30	113.10	+ 0.22	0.23

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Ptflo	174.90	180.30	− 0.50	2.32
-do- Accum	205.20	211.50	+ 0.50	2.32
UK Sel Ptflo	153.80	158.60	+ 0.40	2.56
-do- Accum	182.70	188.40	+ 0.60	2.56
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	73.00	77.66†		3.65
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4648				
Intl Income	82.27	87.34†	+ 0.31	3.84

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■ FILM 1

With his latest, *Mighty Aphrodite*, Woody Allen proves that he hasn't lost his touch

■ FILM 2

. . . while Claude Sautet's new *Nelly & Monsieur Arnaud* is a tender study of an older man and a younger woman

THE TIMES ARTS FILMS

■ FILM 3

John Travolta confirms his superstar status in *Broken Arrow*, a movie filled with explosions

■ FILM 4

. . . while Al Pacino is the New York mayor who makes a play for the White House in the thriller *City Hall*

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** sees Woody Allen come up with a joyous variation on familiar themes in *Mighty Aphrodite*

Old jokers can still be the best

At moments in Woody Allen's latest diversion, time stands still. How often have we been in an upmarket Manhattan apartment, watching Allen give his neuroses a shake as he battles some professional or personal crisis? He does so again in **Mighty Aphrodite**, in which he plays Lenny, a sports writer keen on boxing, jazz and all things Allenish, happy to call his newly adopted baby Sugar Ray, Thelonious or Groucho. We laugh, of course: but we also worry if Allen's persona is not growing a tad threadbare.

And how often have we seen Allen, offscreen and on, entangled with a younger woman? The pattern is repeated here. Impressed by the IQ of his bouncing boy, Lenny seeks the natural mother, uncovering no female Einstein but a dumb porn actress, a tart with a heart and the business name of Judy Cum. Luckily, Mira Sorvino, using a squeaky voice of unvarying pitch, invests the lady with a special glow and tenderness; she rejuvenates the formula.

The sweet success of *Mighty Aphrodite* shows that after 25 years of making movies Allen does not need new themes, only new variations. Abandoning the jittery camerawork of *Husbands and Wives* and *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, he returns to plain, full-frontal staging. The only novelty is the masked Greek chorus led by F. Murray Abraham. In their ruined amphitheatre far from Manhattan, they survey the drama, brood on fate, offer unwelcome advice ("Please, Lenny, don't be a schmuck!"), and give a Cole Porter song a vigorous work-out.

Although Allen indulges them rather too much, the chorus adds a refreshing kink to the script. And, as the story unfolds, Allen's characters spring their own little surprises. Instead of becoming sucked into an incongruous romance with the cheerful tart, Lenny turns matchmaker. For her ideal mate he picks Michael Rapaport's Kevin, a cranially challenged boxer from the sticks. There is condescension in Allen's treatment of these genial dopes, but Sorvino fights back with a three-dimensional portrayal that deservedly won her the Oscar for best supporting actress.

Mighty Aphrodite
Warner West End
15, 91 mins
Woody Allen's genial diversion

Nelly & Monsieur Arnaud
Curzon Mayfair
PG, 107 mins
French perfection from Claude Sautet

Broken Arrow
Odeon West End
15, 109 mins
John Travolta goes ballistic

City Hall
Warner West End
15, 112 mins
Muddled, entertaining political thriller

The film's sheer good nature also helps sweep away flaws. In both life and art, Allen has had good reason to view relationships sourly — *Husbands and Wives* positively dripped with vitriol — but here he pairs off his characters with a smile, and even brings Helena Bonham Carter's selfish wife back from the cold after she has left Lenny's domestic hearth for that ultimate in Manhattan chic — the trendy art gallery.

After 25 years it is obvious that Allen's films will never reflect or suit the taste of the whole world. But few directors know their own little universe so well; and few other creators of comedy — not Keaton, not Chaplin — can claim such a sustained run of inspiration. The film may not touch the absolute heights, but we should still watch *Mighty Aphrodite* with gratitude.

Joy continues with **Nelly & Monsieur Arnaud**, an exquisite and tender study of an older man and a younger woman from the French veteran Claude Sautet. They meet by chance in a restaurant. He (Michel Serrault) is a retired colonial judge — spruce, sardonic, accustomed to power — who views the world from under quizzical eyebrows. She (Emmanuele Béart) is an alluring 25-year-old, married to a dull layabout, brimming with unfulfilled desires.

"Did you notice his eyes? He doesn't miss anything," a friend of Nelly's observes. Neither does Sautet: the camera catches every gaze, hesitation and flicker of misunderstanding as Arnaud edges towards intimacy with Nelly, whom he hires to sit at a computer and take dictation of his ponderous memoirs or catalogue and parcel up his library of rare books.

These are scarcely activities to set the pulse racing. But Sautet is not interested in any high drama. For all the dance of sexual attraction, no sex is involved: the closest body contact Arnaud enjoys is a few secret strokes while the beautiful Nelly sleeps. But, given the film's intimate scope and the strength of the star performances, even a caress feels like an earthquake.

The plot also finds room for Jean-Hughes Anglade as the publisher of Arnaud's memoirs; once he meets Nelly, the couple becomes a triangle. There is the lugubrious Michael Lonsdale, sidling into the odd scene as a mysterious shadow from Arnaud's past. But the film never strays far from the courtly, bemused face of Serrault (looking eerily like the director himself) and his radiant young companion; you cannot take your eyes off them.

Ultimately, though, the film is Sautet's triumph, crowning more than 40 years in the business as an assistant director, scriptwriter and director. Fastidious craftsmanship, so rare in this rambunctious age, goes hand in hand with wise observations of manners, society and the human heart. The result is unalloyed pleasure.

Travolta. Slater. No first names are needed on the poster for **Broken Arrow**. These guys have reached superstar status, like Mozart or Cézanne. Not that their skills are equivalent. John Travolta, coasting along on the success of *Pulp Fiction*, spends most of his time sneering at the fools trying to stop him holding America to ransom by hijacking nuclear bombs. Christian Slater, making his entry in the he-man stakes, runs around deserts, copper mines, trucks and trains, aiming to stop his old partner from the air force. "You're out of your mind," Slater observes in the final set-to. "Yeah, ain't it cool?" Travolta drones.

Not that *Broken Arrow* ever encourages audiences to expect cinema's finer things. The script, dreamt up by Graham Yost, writer of *Speed*, exists simply to showcase explosions. Apart from an unconvincing crash of Travolta's stealth bomber, the action scenes work well enough: as they should with a director such as John Woo, Hong Kong specialist in flying debris (*see interview on page 34*). But after a while one orange fireball seems much like another; and by staging so much action in an abandoned mine (the favoured hideaway of villains in 1940s serials), the chances for visual interest are drastically limited.

Broken Arrow would also be easier to swallow if the plot made at least a little sense. Maybe the cutting-room floor holds the key, although the thought of this bumptious, brainless movie actually being longer is depressing.

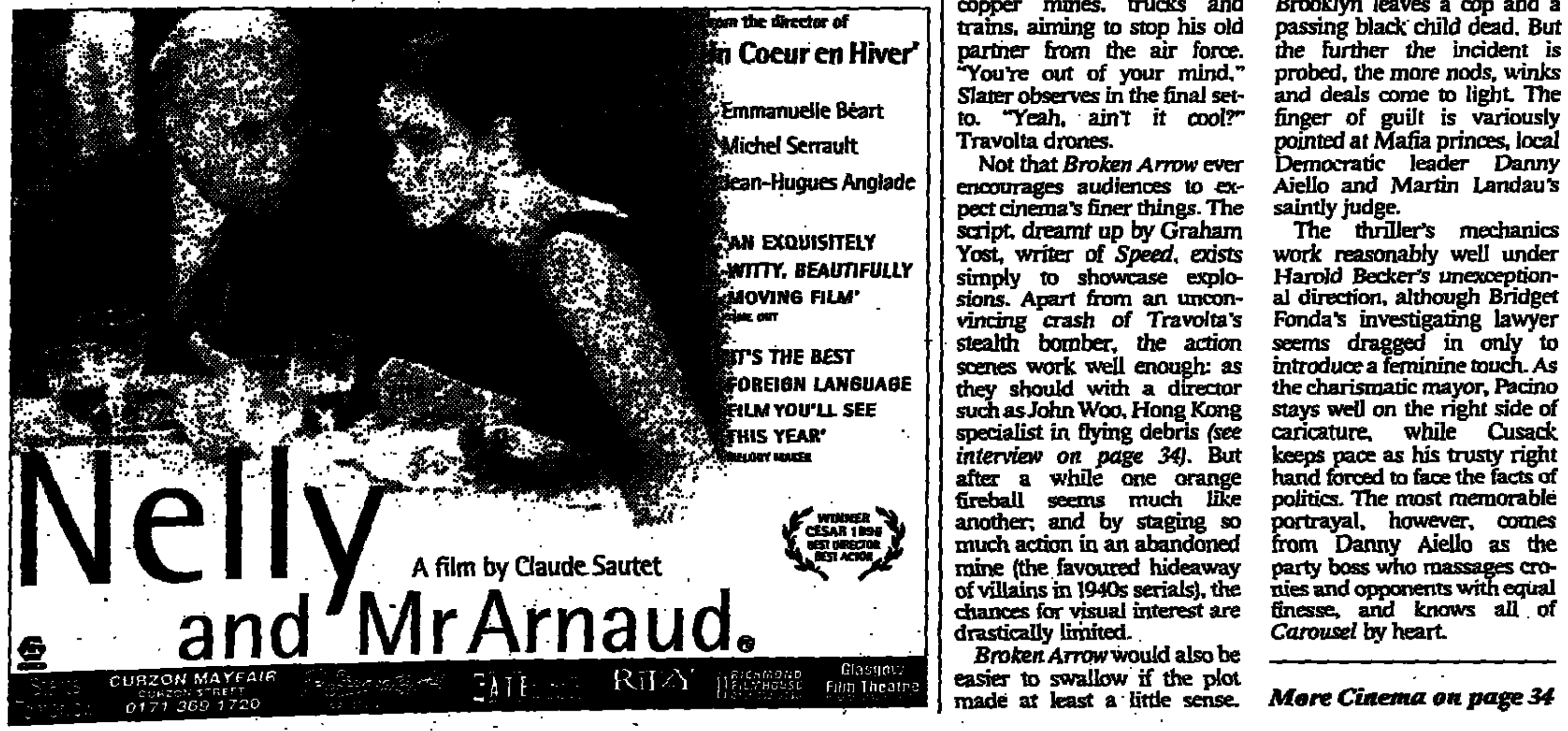
To the list of past notable mayors of New York City — Jimmy Walker, Fiorello La Guardia, Ed Koch — we must now add Al Pacino. He is a Greek-American, John Pappas by name. His thick hair is swept back. Passion is his middle name, especially when he sways electors and makes a play for the White House. Most of **City Hall** appear to approve of this charismatic figure; although with four credited writers shaping the script, jarring voices sometimes poke through. For the record, the team ranges from Ken Lipper (Ed Koch's former deputy) to Scorsese collaborator Nicholas Pileggi and the esteemed Paul Schrader.

John Cusack's character Calhoun, Pappas's deputy, begins in naive adoration of his master. He shares the mayor's outrage when a shooting in Brooklyn leaves a cop and a passing black child dead. But the further the incident is probed, the more nods, winks and deals come to light. The finger of guilt is variously pointed at Mafia princes, local Democratic leader Danny Aiello and Martin Landau's saintly judge.

The thriller's mechanics work reasonably well under Harold Becker's unexceptional direction, although Bridget Fonda's investigating lawyer seems dragged in only to introduce a feminine touch. As the charismatic mayor, Pacino stays well on the right side of caricature, while Cusack keeps pace as his trusty right hand forced to face the facts of politics. The most memorable portrayal, however, comes from Danny Aiello as the party boss who massages cronies and opponents with equal finesse, and knows all of *Carousel* by heart.

More Cinema on page 34

"Few directors know their own little universe so well": Woody Allen with Helena Bonham Carter and baby perambulating in *Mighty Aphrodite*



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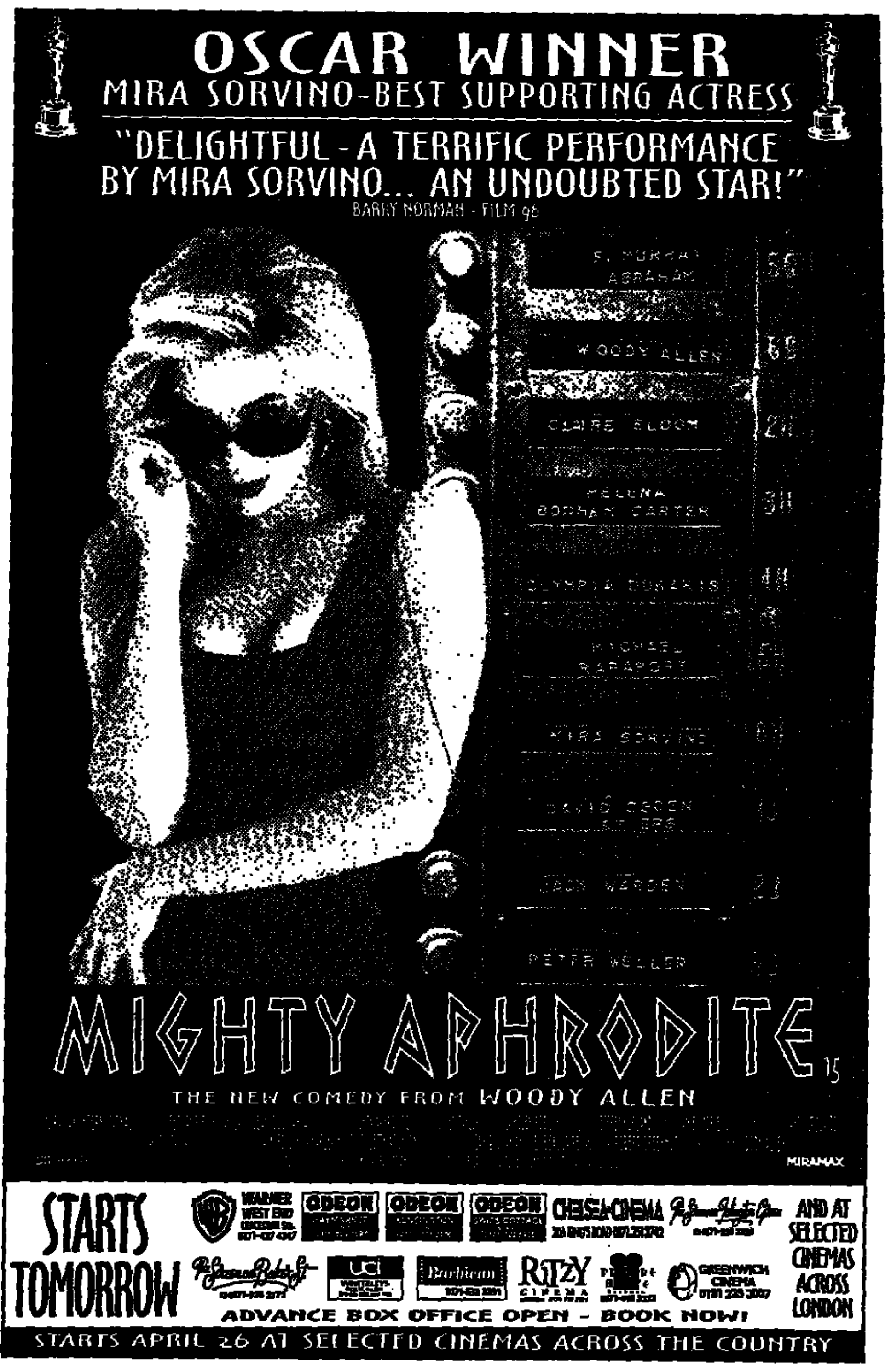

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■ CHOICE 1

Cheryl Campbell stars in Martin Sherman's new *Some Sunny Day*

VENUE: Tonight at the Hampstead Theatre

■ CHOICE 2

Shavian wit and wisdom in a *Pygmalion* for Edinburgh

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Lyceum

THE TIMES ARTS FILMS

■ CHOICE 3

Tamás Vásáry conducts the Bournemouth Sinfonietta

VENUE: Tonight at the Weymouth Pavilion

■ FILM

Meet John Woo, the Hollywood director who never bumps off a baddie with three bullets when 15 will do

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN: The 150 talented young players come together under Janos Fürst to conclude the London Symphony Orchestra's Bruckner/Mozart Series with Mozart's Piano Concerto No 26, *Coronation* and Bruckner's epic Eighth Symphony.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

SOME SUNNY DAY: Opening night for Martin Sherman's new play, set in Cairo in 1942, with the German army very close and the Brits being variously British. The cast of Roger Michell's production includes Cheryl Campbell, Sara Kestelman, Rupert Everett and Corin Redgrave. Tickets not available until April 25.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm ♿

TWELVE ANGRY MEN: First night of previews for Harold Pinter directing Reginald Rose's justly celebrated jury-room drama. The starry cast includes Peter Vaughan, Timothy West and Kevin Whately.
Comedy, Panton St, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Apr 22.

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH: A busy week in Scotland's capital. Michael Mackenzie teaches and Emily Winter learns how to speak proper in Hugh Hodgart's production of **Pygmalion** at the Royal Lyceum. Over at the Festival Theatre, **Adventures in Motion Pictures** give Matthew Bourne's new all-male treatment of *Swan Lake*, to Tchaikovsky's music. The Usher Hall is the venue for a performance of Handel's magnificent oratorio, *Messiah*, by the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus**, while the **BT Scottish Ensemble** is joined by the tenor James Oxley in works by Britten, Tchaikovsky, Elgar and Britten.
Royal Lyceum, Grindlay Street ♿ (0131-229 9697). Free preview tonight and opens tomorrow, 7.45pm. Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Apr 20, 24, 27, 2.30pm. **Festival**, Nicolson Street ♿ (0131-529 6000). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. **Usher Hall**, Lothian Road ♿ (0131-228 1155). Tonight, 7.15pm. **Queen's Hall**, Clerk Street, EH8 (0131-668 2019). Tonight, 7.45pm.

MANCHESTER: Kim Dambaek directs Ged McKenna and Ciran McIntyre in a new production of Samuel Beckett's hilarious and haunting drama, **Waiting for Godot**, as part of the Contact's *Fundamental Continental Season*. Meanwhile, Tadaaki Otaka conducts the **Hallé Orchestra** in a spectacular programme of works by Stravinsky, Rachmaninov and Walton. With the pianist Dmitri Alexeev.
Contact, Oxford Road ♿ (0161-274 4400/4747). Free preview tonight, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until May 4. **Free Trade Hall**, Peter Street ♿ (0161-834 1712). Tonight, 7.30pm.

WEYMOUTH: The **Bournemouth Sinfonietta**'s principal conductor Tamás Vásáry directs a Mozart-Schubert programme, including Mozart's Violin Concerto No 5, *Turkish*, and Schubert's *Unfinished* Symphony.
Pavilion, The Esplanade (01305 783225). Tonight, 7.30pm ♿

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Diaghilev, Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141) . . **British Museum**: Vases and Volcanoes: Sir William Hamilton collection (0171-636 1555) . . **Courtauld**: Drawings by Thomas Gainsborough (071-873 2526) . . **Hayward**: Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) . . **National Gallery**: Old Master paintings from Rome's Doria Pamphilj Gallery (0171-747 2885) . **National Portrait Gallery**: Faces of the 80s (0171-306 0055) . . **Royal Academy**: Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate**: Cézanne (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A**: Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

■ **AFTER THE RAIN**: The most successful of the Gate's Biennale season: Sergi Belbel's enjoyable play about desperate office smokers finding various kinds of relief on the roof of their No Smoking building.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Tonight-Sat, 9pm. Final week.

☐ **EMILIA GALOTTI**: A prince plots to seduce the heroine on her wedding day and she is alarmed to find herself attracted to him. Christopher Hynes directs Mary Luckhurst's new translation of Lessing's tragic thriller.
Courtyard, 10 York Way, Kings Cross N1 (0171-833 0870). Opening tonight, 8pm. Tue-Sun, 8pm. Until May 4 ♿

☐ **ENDGAME**: Alun Armstrong and Stephen Dillane in Katie Mitchell's production of middle period Beckett.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Previews begin tonight, 8pm. Opens Apr 17, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 4pm ♿

☐ **THE ENDS OF THE EARTH**: Samantha Bond, Michael Sheen and Tom Mannion in David Lan's puzzler, set in the Balkans and to do with sacrifice, freedom and the like.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Apr 13, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. In rep ♿

☐ **PASSION**: An unconvincing musical from Sondheim, but Maria Friedman remarkably good as a voracious man-hunter. With Michael Ball.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5590). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**: Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

☐ **MISS JULIE**: Polly Teale (soon to co-direct the National's *War and Peace*) directs Susan Lynch and John Hannah in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion and doom.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat 3.30pm ♿

■ **SKYLIGHT**: Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat 3pm.

◪ **TAP DOGS**: Dein Perry's sextet of dancers in working-boots returns to its building-site set. High energy stuff.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm.

◪ **TOMMY**: Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard. Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm ♿

☐ **TRAINSPOTTING**: The current cult show: Irvine Welsh's drug-blasted, foul-tongued Edinburgh no-hopers. Bleakly funny now and then.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Tue-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed and Sat 5pm, Sun 4pm.

☐ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm ♿

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

NADJA: Adventures of Dracula's offspring in New York. Arty but effective horror film from US independent Michael Almereyda. With Elina Löwensohn and Peter Fonda.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **ICA** ♿ (0171-930 3647) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST (PG): Cary Grant is mistaken for a non-existent spy. Welcome revival of Hitchcock's playful, entertaining thriller (1959), with James Mason and Eva Marie Saint.
Lumière (0171-836 0691)

SMALL FACES (18): Gillies and Billy MacKinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the late 1960s, largely cast with local talent.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

SWIMMING WITH SHARKS (15): Jet-black satire about Hollywood, with Kevin Spacey as a monstrous studio executive, and Frank Whaley. Director, George Huang.
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

CURRENT

◆ **BRAVEHEART** (15): Mel Gibson directs and stars in his Oscar-laden, blood-thirsty epic about the 13th century Scottish rebel William Wallace.
Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 915574)

◆ **CASINO** (18): Scorsese's epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s, glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

FRENCH TWIST (18): Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Odeons: Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

HEAT (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **LAWNMOWER MAN 2: BEYOND CYBERSPACE** (12): Patrick Bergin and kids battle Matt Frewer in the land of virtual reality. Moderate high-tech fantasy, directed by Farhad Mann.
Odeon West End (01426 915574)

◆ **LEAVING LAS VEGAS** (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from Mike Figgis.
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **Odeon Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A LITTLE PRINCESS** (U): Marvellous rendering of the children's classic, with Liesel Matthews as the boarding school girl plunged from riches to rags. Director, Alfonso Cuarón.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **NIXON** (15): Exhausting, overlong portrait with Anthony Hopkins and too much razzle-dazzle from Oliver Stone.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SGT. BILKO** (PG): Crass spin-off from Phil Silvers's television comedy classic, with Steve Martin and Dan Aykroyd. Director, Jonathan Lynn.
Empire ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **TRAINSPOTTING** (18): Abrasive look at junkie life, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the Shallow Grave team. Director, Danny Boyle.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

Seduced by Mr Woo

Joe Joseph

meets John Woo, director of *Broken Arrow*, idol of Tarantino

John Woo, who made his name directing Hong Kong action movies so slick that even Hollywood's style-sultans such as Quentin Tarantino and Martin Scorsese swooned, measures out his life not in coffee spoons but in bullet holes.

His second Hollywood film, *Broken Arrow*, both secures his reputation as a director who never bumps off a baddie with three bullets when 15 will do (it's a matter of rhythm, not violence, says Woo), and underlines his influence on Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs*, right down to the straight-arm Mexican stand-offs.

To say that a little blood gets spilt in a Woo movie is like saying a little coffee gets grown in Brazil. In *Hard Boiled*, one of his last Hong Kong triumphs, a quiet Kowloon teahouse of Chinese Jasmine-sippers explodes into a bloody mortuary within the opening two minutes.

But if you were to deduce from all this gore that Woo must be one of those nutters who slavers over back copies of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, then you'd be making as big a mistake as someone who looks at Matisse cutouts and thinks, ah well, maybe this guy never made it beyond nursery-school art class.

"I *hate* violence," says Woo, quietly spoken, almost bashful. He is dressed in crisp dark suit, silk tie, shined shoes. The concierge at his Knightsbridge hotel probably takes him for a Hong Kong businessman.

"I never learnt any martial arts, and I've never fired a gun." So what's with all the shooting and the dead bodies?

"Perhaps it all stems from my childhood. I was raised in a real bad neighbourhood — drug dealers, prostitutes, thieves, killings. You come under a lot of pressure to join the gangs, the triads. But I had good parents who taught me to be strong." A church schooling also shaped his recurring themes of friendship, betrayal, loyalty, of honour and dignity, of religious imagery.

"I was so poor, and I saw so much unfairness and crime and killings. So I always have this dream: is there any way to stop crime and conquer evil? I couldn't do that in real life, so I do it in films. That's why I love to glorify my heroes — because however miserable life is, there is always hope and there is always justice. I always like to send this message."

John Woo: to say that the Hong Kong director's films are violent is akin to saying coffee grows in Brazil, but a church schooling results in themes of loyalty, honour and friendship

And how. Tarantino rates Woo as "the most exciting director to emerge in action cinema since Sergio Leone". It was the adulation of Tarantino, among others, that persuaded Woo to pack for Los Angeles four years ago. Tarantino is currently working on a script that Woo hopes to direct, maybe in a couple of years' time — two films along the road. He's *that* busy.

Woo has already cast *Broken Arrow* star John Travolta in his next movie, *Face Off*. He will play alongside Nicolas Cage. Produced by Michael Douglas, *Face Off* is "a futuristic story about a cop and a criminal who swap faces. It's a battle between good and evil" (a Woo film that isn't a battle between good and evil would be as fishy as an aquarium).

Then comes a movie with Chow Yun-Fat, the star of *Hard Boiled* and *The Killer*, the two Woo films that made Hollywood sit up. In fact 22 companies wooed Woo before Universal won him over with *Hard Target*, starring Jean-Claude van Damme.

Broader horizons and bigger budgets were two reasons that persuaded Woo to move continents. His family was a third: "In Hong Kong it's very easy to work seven days a week. It's very competitive, pressurised. People would shoot in the daytime and edit in the nighttime. My children hardly recognised my face.

"Families are very important to me. I can lose everything, but I can't lose my family. So I moved my whole family to Los Angeles because in the Western world they don't work in the evenings and weekends and holidays. We have a very happy life. Also, in Hollywood, film people, the studios and fans have given me a lot of support. I don't feel lonely. I've been very moved by all that."

He has been even more moved by the Hollywood film-making process: moved to despair. "It's so complicated. So many people involved. So much politics, games, hundreds of meetings. In Hong Kong we only need one meeting: we pitch the story, talk about the cast, and that's it."

So, Mr Woo, can you drop us a hint of what the new Tarantino script will be about? "It's about the honest cop, and a killer — a psychological war." Any more? "It's a conflict between good and evil."

● ***For more on Hollywood's Chinese action, see the Magazine on Saturday***

SNAP VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss new releases . . .

BROKEN ARROW

Carolyn Dawson, 18: A typical Hollywood action film. Travolta and Slater made a change from Willis or Stallone.
Amy Gibson, 18: Not being a "bombs and guns" film fan, I was convinced I'd hate this one. Yet despite moments when belief was suspended, this was a gripping and action-packed film. It had the predictable James Bond-style get-together at the end.
Toby Brown, 16: The whole film was explosive — non-stop action and extremely exciting. It cast John Travolta in a role which he is not normally associated with and he was excellent.
Patrick Bird, 16: Good, but nothing groundbreaking — it was just like *Speed*. I wouldn't go out of my way to see it.

CITY HALL

Carolyn: You need a knowledge of politics to understand or even care about what is happening in the film. The ending was good, though, as the plot twists and the mystery is solved.
Amy: Although this was well acted, the plot was convoluted. I found the theme — the idealist discovering the realities of the world — quite dull.
Toby: The film was bland and dull, and there was no climax. I didn't relate to or learn anything about the characters. Al Pacino acted well but the role didn't allow him to show his potential.
Patrick: A promising beginning but it degenerated into a pile of rubbish. Al Pacino and John Cusack were quite good, but Bridget Fonda was a joke. It was very boring and too long: a "must not see".

MIGHTY APHRODITE

Carolyn: A passive film which would appeal to those with an absurd sense of humour. The Greek chorus added to its originality. Not really a teenagers' film — more for the over 25s.
Amy: Excellent light entertainment. I loved the mythological Greek chorus commenting on the characters' antics and there were some great one-liners.
Toby: An exquisite, funny and beautifully moving film. Michael Rapaport is absorbing as the boxer and Bonham Carter, who plays the busy wife having an affair, is also superb. Unmissable.
Patrick: I enjoyed it. It was light-hearted and funny but a little unrealistic. The Greek chorus was clever.

ENTERTAINMENTS

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هكذا صدر الاصل

■ THEATRE

Josie Lawrence shines, but the RSC's *Taming of the Shrew* disappoints in its London transfer

■ OPERA

Boos at Covent Garden as the "modernised" *Nabucco* arrives trailing clouds of controversy

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC

Leonard Slatkin conducts the first performance of John Casken's new orchestral piece, *Sortilège*

■ CABARET

Mandy Patinkin, the doyen of Sondheim singers, turns larger than life in his one-man Almeida show

THEATRE: Gale Edwards's witless *Shrew* for the 1990s limps into London; plus, Fellini to music does not ring true

Not the way the Bard wrote it

The Taming of the Shrew
Barbican

This production by Gale Edwards, which launches the RSC's final summer season at the Barbican, might have been an occasion for a nice if slightly premature homily about parting being sweet sorrow. Instead, it has the unintended effect of making me, until now an implacable foe of the company's plans, feel that Londoners deserve a rest from hand-me-down transfers from Stratford, Plymouth, Cardiff, Batley, Otley or wherever the RSC proposes to put down its tents in 1997 would certainly be welcome to a *Shrew* that has improved not at all since its first incarnation last April.

True, the revival had and has its strengths and, true, they are at the play's core. Michael Siberry makes an attractively raffish, buccaneering Petruchio, all the stronger for the hint of insecurity behind the Scarlet Pimpernel macho. Josie Lawrence's splendidly robust Kate suggests a parallel vulnerability beneath the snarls and Annie Oakley swagger. All that both need to be excellent is to be recast in a production as unlike this as possible.

One problem is the engulfing visual ado: Tranio as Gary Glitter, Gremio in a dotty blend of white ruff, black frock coat and green hose, Petruchio arriving for his wedding in a cute red car accompanied by Grumio in a pink tutu and himself looking as if he cannot decide whether he is an Inca king, an American wrestling champ or a Waterloo down-and-out. If his own household were odd and sinister, it might help push along the plot and explain Kate's "taming". But it is simply odd and silly, as if the Cirque de Soleil had been cursorily redirected by Mack Sennett, and scarcely even raises a laugh. Nothing, repeat nothing in the world is less funny than the RSC doing *commedia* routines.

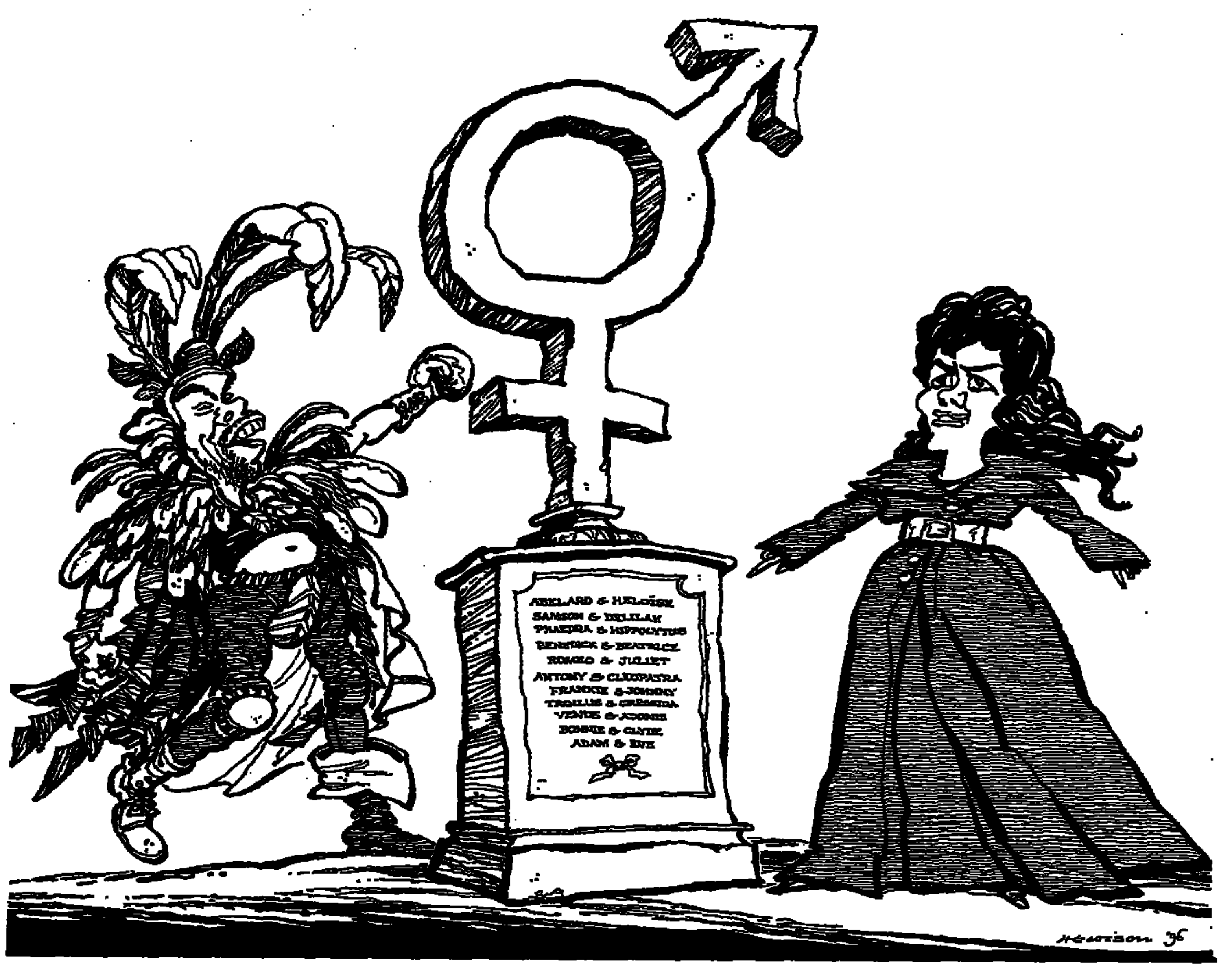
What chance of exceptional wit or subtlety from the principals in such circumstances? But Edwards's handling of the play's sexual politics is not exactly liberating either. She reinvents the Christopher Sly "induction"; she makes wholly unjustified cuts and additions at the close; she forces Siberry and Lawrence to finish the play in ways that directly contradict the Bard's wishes; and all for the sake of extracting a right-on moral for the right-thinking 1990s.

Sly, you will recall, is the drunken tinker for whom the play proper is performed on the orders of aristocratic practical jokers. Here almost everything funny, cruel and Shakespearean disappears, to allow him to become Petruchio and *The Shrew* his didactic dream. I have seen this doubling tried before, notably by Jonathan Pryce in 1978, but never to such awkward and perverse effect. That becomes sadly clear when we get to Kate's notorious speech on the duty of wives to serve, love and obey their husbands.

The speech can be delivered straight, robotically or in a knowing, half-amused way, depending on whether you see Kate as a conventional Elizabethan, a battered modern wife, or (the most effective) a strong woman complicit in forging a bond with a man who reaches parts of her the dreary, feeble Paduans have left untouched. What she cannot do is fall authentically in love with Petruchio, then make him feel, half-way through the speech, that his sexism has Gone Too Far. What he cannot do is flinch away in guilty horror at her scorn and, transformed back to Sly, beg a *rapprochement* with his wronged wife. But that is Edwards's "solution".

In Shakespeare the couple go happily to bed. Here they become exemplars in a marriage guidance manual aimed at unreconstructed males. Which ending is the more authentic? Need you ask?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Tamed into submission: Michael Siberry as Petruchio and Josie Lawrence as Kate get little chance to shine in *The Taming of the Shrew*

Fall from grace

La Dolce Vita
Lyric, W6

I HOPE no theatre director is planning a stage version of *Battleship Potemkin* or any movie where at least some of its power derives from a panoramic sweep, with or without the cast of thousands. On stage the loss of these background views, as well as the pace and clarity of the cinematic flow, is just too severe a loss, as witnessed in the RSC's unsatisfactory version of *Les Enfants du Paradis* a few weeks back.

And now David Glass's treatment of the story filmed by Fellini in the 1950s, a Roman journalist's descent into the Infernal City of egotism, depravity and despair. Plus songs. It doesn't work, and the failure is due to misjudgments that in isolation might have been absorbed but when exhibited in quantity deliver real damage.

In Glass's support I should mention that he once did a remarkably effective *Les Enfants*. His treatment had a unifying style all the more impressive in a work where a principal theme is the contest between different styles.

There is unity of a sort in his new show: black background, white screens: most of the men in black suits and all but one of the women in black, the exception being Sylvia, the brainless Hollywood star, who is allowed a dash of cyclamen.

The David Glass Ensemble is renowned for its mime skills and there is a fair amount of that on display. But this can be distracting when something is going on elsewhere on the stage, though Glass's purpose is evidently to give such scenes a complexity. Showing the density of the Via Veneto, for instance, with the beautiful people, the rich and the eccentric, bickering.

There is the matter of the music too, and the lyrics, by Paul Sand with many a nod towards Nino Rota, who wrote the music for the film. His inevitably modern score does not blend well with the Rota melodies, one of which seems to have strayed from *La Strada*.

There are a couple of vigorously choreographed numbers but the gravest objection is the Odtaa effect: the One Damned Thing After Another. Yes, the paparazzo is an odious skunk, but Gerard Casey's Marcello, while effectively hunched and stricken at times of stress, doesn't inspire great interest in his decline and fall.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Some enchanting evening

Philharmonia/ Slatkin
Festival Hall

JOHN CASKEN'S new orchestral piece, *Sortilège*, was premiered by the Philharmonia Orchestra on Tuesday as the centrepiece of an all-English programme. The conductor was Leonard Slatkin, best known here for his special way with the English late-Romantics, and Casken received the same sympathetic treatment.

As Slatkin has proved during his long tenure in St Louis — he is soon to take charge of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington — his musical affinities are wide, and many were reflected in his confident drawing together of the varied threads.

Points of reference in describing the style of Casken's new work are Debussy, Copland, Stravinsky in *The Rite of Spring* and Richard Strauss for one whooping climax. But they are not obvious influences. Casken's language verges on clear-cut tonality but remains individual; although his textures are dense they are never turgid. He uses a rich orchestral palette — scoring is for a large, conventional orchestra, with piano and prominent percussion. With striking solos from several instruments during its 20 minutes' duration, *Sortilège* is almost a concerto for orchestra.

As the title suggests, *Sortilège* deals with sorcery and spells. It was inspired by Tennyson's *Merlin and Vivien*, and its two movements mirror Tennyson's structure. Both movements begin innocently, both quickly become menacing and agitated as Vivien repeatedly attempts to bewitch Merlin. Slatkin has an ear for detail and brought the music to life.

He cast his own spell over Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending*, producing mesmerising pianissimos and plumbing depths of emotion rarely revealed here. The Philharmonia's leader, Christopher Warren-Green, fluttered freely as the soloist in a performance that rekindled admiration for a work that can seem just pastorally pretty.

Having delivered some of the softest orchestral playing possible, Slatkin unleashed sounds of shattering ferocity in his account of *The Planets*. Biting ensemble evoked brutal cosmic power in *Mars*, and incisive strings sharpened the focus on much-abused *Jupiter*. Some wayward intonation from the offstage New London Children's Choir made *Neptune* more weird than ethereal, but this was an exciting performance that underlined Holst's originality.

JOHN ALLISON

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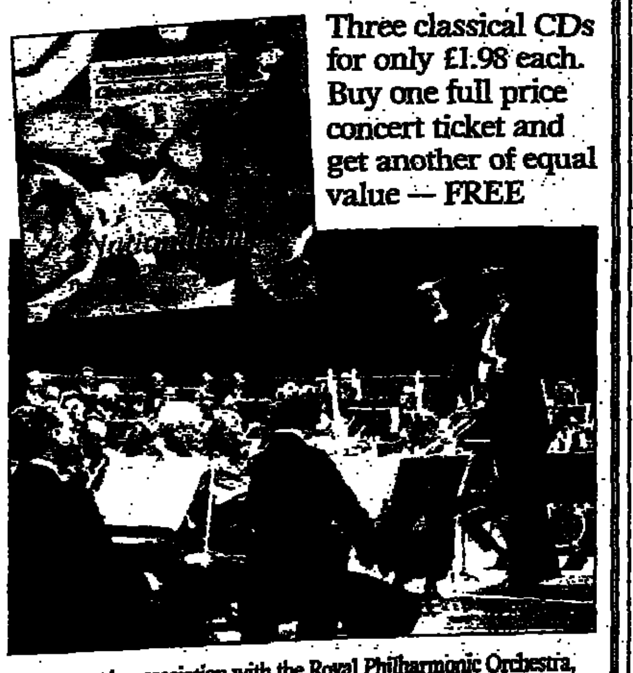

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Our second offer is *The Times* Classical Collection, three CDs costing only £1.98 each, performed by the RPO. The third, *Nationalism*, features music by composers who incorporated folk melodies or dancing rhythms in work asserting national traditions. An order form for the three CDs will be in tomorrow's paper.

[illegible]

OPERA: Toned-down *Nabucco* is saved by the music at Covent Garden

Less is more when stars shine

TIM ALBERY'S joint Welsh National-Royal Opera production of *Nabucco* came to Covent Garden trailing clouds of controversy. The respected Verdi specialist Sir Edward Downes declined to conduct it, which many felt to be an important skirmish in a counter-revolution against "modern" production styles. We shall see.

Julia Varady cancelled (again) but at least gave the management plenty of notice this time — about three months. There was booing (duly reported on the front pages) mingled with cheers (unreported) for the production team on Tuesday.

But the audience had not seen the half of it: Albery and his designer, Antony McDonald, have significantly watered down the staging since it was new in Cardiff last year. The Hebrews are not seen partying during the overture, some of the more extravagant headgear has vanished, mild transvestism is no longer a symptom of Nabucco's madness, he has lost his Ashurbanipal-style beard, and an unsettlingly Palestinian look for the Assyrians has been toned down — a little too confrontational, maybe, given intervening events.

This leaves the Holocaust imagery dangerously exposed; the strength of the original staging lay in the rich variety of visual symbols responding to events both before and after the opera's composition. But plenty remain, not least the suggestion of conflict between civilisation and barbarism — very much a topic for our times — and the Hebrews' brutal treatment of a female hostage certainly reflects Verdi's equivocal attitude to Risorgimento patriotism. The combination of *Va, pensiero*, Verdi's title *The Prophecy* and a graffiti-like representation of a row of huts remains mind-numbing.

The watering-down may be a pity — either do it, or don't do it — but the musical performance at Covent Garden is quite magnificent. The young Russian conductor Wladimir Jurowski makes a brilliant debut. His tempos, not all of them conventional, and their relationships are carefully considered. He gets bright, crisp playing from the excellent orchestra, full-throated and disciplined singing from Terry Edwards's chorus. The rum-ti-tum cabalettas are given real dramatic weight. He has a *view* of the score, astonishingly assured for someone still in his early twenties. More, please, and soon.

Alexandru Agache had lost much of the BSE-tinged meat of Nabucco's character in the rethinking, but more than made up for it with his imposing stage presence, his natural eloquence and nobility of utterance. Purely vocally he has done nothing better at Covent Garden.

Samuel Ramey, too, was on top form as Zaccaria, especially when released from behind the false proscenium in the first scene, which had a slightly deadening effect on everyone's sound; his Prayer was exquisitely phrased, and his ringing high F sharp at the end of the Prophecy pinned us all to the back of our seats.

Nina Rautio, replacing Varady as Abigaille, fields sumptuously creamy tone and sufficient agility, though she could afford to hurry the coloratura less and one or two top Cs were not quite cranked up above B sharp. But anyone who can get through this fiendish role at all wins my vote, and she really goes for it.

Dennis O'Neill sang Albery's bookworm version of Ismaele strongly, and Leah-Marian Jones made much of poor Fenena, who spends most of the evening either with a knife at her throat or a pistol at her temple.

There were no weak links in this evening of rare vocal splendour.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER

High Notes: Samuel Ramey, Leah-Marian Jones and Jennifer Rhys-Davies in the controversial *Nabucco*

Live, larger than life

CABARET

Mandy Patinkin
Almeida

YOU COULD call it Michael Feinstein syndrome. Some artists, unremarkable on record, take on a larger-than-life dimension when they are within hugging distance of an audience. In the case of Mandy Patinkin, doyen of Sondheim singers, the transformation is breathtaking. The singer who can be heard on the new album, *Oscar & Steve* — an ingenious synthesis of the lyrics of Hammerstein and Sondheim — is a rather cloying tenor given to disconcerting leaps into a disembodied falsetto. The effete delivery may not be wholly out of place on the Sondheim numbers, but it leaves Patinkin sounding under-powered on Hammerstein's big, heart-on-sleeve ballads.

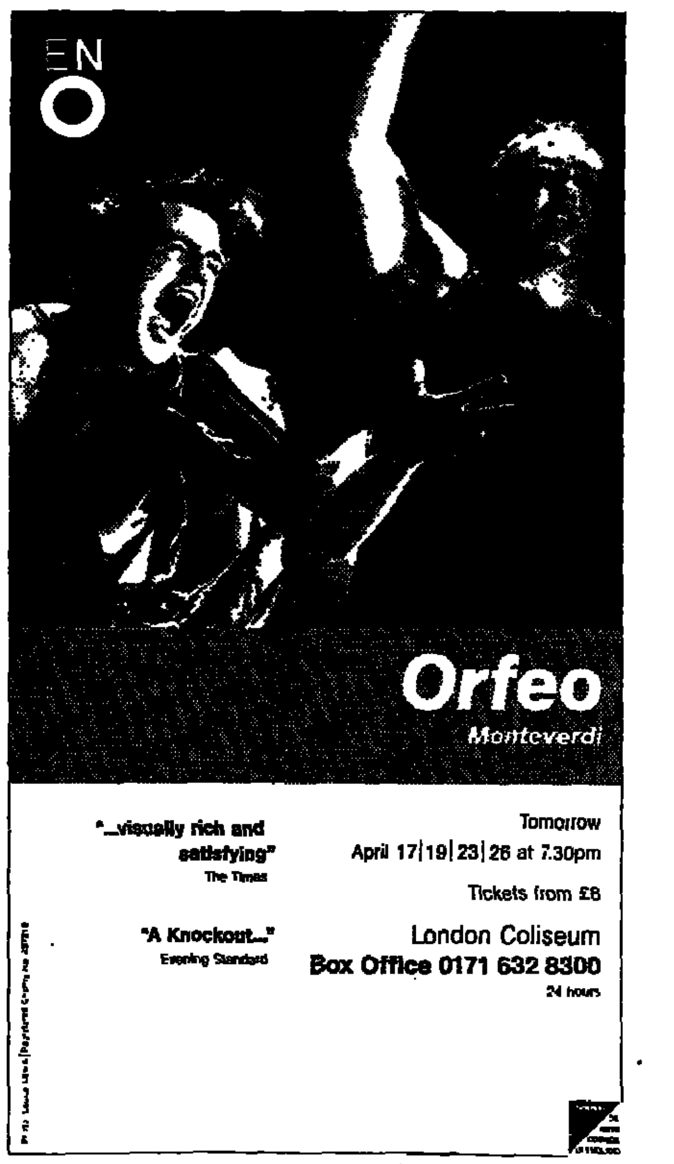
On the stage, his physical presence makes all the difference, even in a bare-brick setting stripped of all objects besides a stark electric lamp and Paul Ford's upright piano. Patinkin brings a hyperactive intensity to his material. In his celebration of a century of musical theatre, it is the theatrical component that comes to the fore.

The juxtapositions of songs by Hammerstein and Sondheim open up unexpected vistas. Nat King Cole once turned *When I Grow Too Old To Dream* into a jaunty, self-confident adieu. Patinkin gives it the unabashedly maudlin treatment, but then wrongfoots the listener with a segue into the bitter-sweet reminiscences of *Remember* from *A Little Night Music*.

At times Patinkin's delight in his own inventiveness can transport him ominously close to Danny Kaye territory. But most of the time, as he swung from broad vaudeville to reprising his role as Che in *Evita*, it was easy to see why he is so often compared to another over-the-top showman, Al Jolson.

Patinkin, you begin to suspect, should have been born a hundred years ago. Today we have videos, CD-Roms and laser discs; but do we have a stage big enough to do him justice?

CLIVE DAVIS



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Roddy Doyle's unsparing examination of a brutal marriage transcends the boundaries of class and nationhood, says **Aisling Foster**

More than just an accidental talent

THE WOMAN WHO WALKED INTO DOORS
By Roddy Doyle
Cape, £14.99

Roddy Doyle gives "accessibility" a good name. No wonder his last book was equally prominent as Booker Prize winner and at school prizegivings. His sharp, punchy style shows an understanding of how we read today. References to television, as well as to music and film, acknowledge their ever-increasing share in the storytelling of contemporary lives; and in feeling the pulse of a raw Dublin suburb, Doyle is recording a beat which can be recognised all over the world.

The Woman Who Walked Into Doors is his best work yet. The woman in the title has already appeared on television. Paula Spencer, is the 39-year-old battered wife, mother and alcoholic in the four-part feature, *The Family*.

The story she told there was powerful enough. Her 18-year marriage to Charlo, a handsome petty criminal, came as close to broken bone as fine acting and camerawork could get; and the physical and psychological damage inflicted on her children and herself directed a well-aimed kick at any government preaching the delights of old-fashioned values.

Yet there was a softness there, too. Despite Doyle's script, scenes of stray horses on suburban roundabouts and a community still able to exchange banter at street corners somehow dissipated the pain. It all looked "very Irish", fitting a persistent canon of the screen world which presents that race as different, inured to suffering by history or wit.

Now Doyle is in total control of his material. And the difference between the two treatments of Paula's story is as distinct as the tastes of real coffee and instant. Nor is this book particularly Irish. Beneath its colloquial "Dub" style is a universal story of invisible women everywhere, lost in vast council wastelands on the fringes of cities. This is the tale of a little life, of childhood, motherhood and widowhood. But Paula's voice, cutting right inside her head to a clotted memory of truth and self-delusion, picking at old scars and patching up fresh wounds, grows more absorbing with every page.

Paula (centre) in Doyle's 1995 TV drama, *The Family*

The past explains this unexpectedly complicated woman. Low self-esteem came early: the memory of a bright child standing in line on her first day at senior school was the shove which sent her tumbling downhill. Considered of low ability, she distinguished herself by "wanking a good-looking thick in the back of the classroom".

Her attraction to Charlo is physical, too. "Elegance in a man is a rare thing, in an Irishman anyway ... You could spend your life walking around here before you'd see a man in a pair of trousers that fit him properly." And the blurry mix of love for her children and alcoholism recurs, her plans for their future flipping over and over before the nightly bottle of vodka knocks her into oblivion.

As an ex-teacher, Doyle probably understands children better than most. But he is also one of those rare male authors who can bring women alive in fiction. Paula's daydreams, inspired by soap operas and Danielle Steele, shore up her defences against facing the truth about herself and her habit. Unconscious revelations betray huge gaps in understanding between parent and child, and the way old damage returns to haunt the next generation.

Television, like drink, applies a comforting cushion to muffle communication. In Charlo's first introduction to Paula's father, their mutual antipathy is channelled into an argument about *The Golden Shot*; an evening with *Baywatch* and a bottle, when Paula tries to discuss steroids with her daughter, mercilessly shows how far their imagined closeness has drifted from reality.

That is the genius of this novel: the layering of what is concrete and dream, a daily diet of romance and violence, fleeting illusions of liberation and affluence. Near the end of the book, Paula decides to visit the place where her husband died, shot dead by the gardai after a bungled kidnap attempt and murder of a bank manager's wife.

She travels to a middle-class cul-de-sac by the sea. It is reminiscent of Australian soap operas, peaceful, neat, with "strange trees that made me feel that I wasn't in Ireland". She had planned to catch a glimpse of the widower, make sure he is all right, but finds fantasy easier to bear. She walks away comforted by her invention of a lonely man sitting in his nice house, destined for consolation, as yet unaware that "there was a woman in his bank that was in love with him".

Doyle does not imagine such easy solutions. Real life and people are far more complex, and their revelations here are impossible to ignore. *The Woman Who Walked Into Doors* deserves all the literary prizes it will surely get; but it should also be presented to every schoolchild as a warning against educational failure and rosy illusions that love will conquer all.

Hell is oneself and hell is alone

Bernard Levin on the worst choice

AM I A MURDERER?
By Calel Perechodnik
Westview, £18.50

The Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943, in which Perechodnik died fighting the Nazis he had been forced to serve

Am I a murderer? Very few of us would need to rack our brain for an answer. But then, very few of us have been in the hands of the Holocaust and lived to tell the tale. Even fewer have seen their entire family being shovelled into the train of no return, bound for Treblinka, while the paterfamilias watches enfolded in a uniform supplied by the Nazis.

It was not as plain as that. Calel Perechodnik, who was only 27, believed that if he enrolled as a Jewish ghetto policeman, his wife and child would have immunity from what was coming. And why should he believe that? Because he was told as much.

Calel Perechodnik lived in a town called Otwock, near Warsaw. He was a Pole and a Jew, and let no one think that the Jewish half lived happily with the other half; prewar Polish Jew-hatred was as vile as that of the Nazis, and when the German invasion began, many Poles were bewildered to find that it was not only the Jews that the Germans had come to kill.

Smiling, those innocents slept, until the *Aktion* — a combination of a slaughterhouse and an unquenchable fire. And perhaps the most terrible words spoken in this story of horror were "... around five o'clock in the evening a written telephone message arrived at the Polish police station, asking that they reserve 50 freight cars for seven in the evening on Wednesday ..."

Imagine a group of people who are frantic to get poison with which to kill themselves; at last they have understood what has happened — or rather, not understood but at least know what is to come. Calel has known much earlier, which only makes his torment worse. He imagines the scene: "The crowd of naked, silent women, mostly with children in hand, moves forward to a huge building, where they are supposed to bathe ... Silently, old women with flabby breasts, young, tall women, slender like poplars ... Anko, Anko, let your beautiful eyes gaze for the last time at the heaven, at the sunset. Send me your last greeting — a benediction or a curse."

A benediction or a curse. For Calel is still asking "Am I a murderer?", and he will go on asking that question until his last day. And yet, he is a Jewish ghetto policeman, and he has tasks to carry out — for instance he has to bury one thousand bodies.

But Calel has yet another fire to walk through. "It is at that moment I stopped believing in God. I ask myself if I was not guilty of something and whether I did not pull down on myself that Tower of Babel."

And still Calel walks through fire.

The Holocaust brought out very many aspects of human wickedness and many of nobility. But perhaps the most agonising was the choice that was no choice. I read about it, and remembered it — who could forget? A Nazi was selecting Jews; the ones who could be useful were pointed down one channel, the ones who could not contribute anything went down the channel of death.

But one day, the line consisted of a mother and her two sturdy children; the Nazi before her smiled, waved his hand and said to the mother, "You choose".

In the annals of evil this must rank very high. But now, *is* Calel a murderer? As he fled from one dangerous move to another, as he found shelter in cellars, in ruins, in wardrobes, behind hoardings, he must have been haunted by the very thought of choice.

In a sense, this story is a story of choice. When he parted with his family, that was the first step. Of course, he could not guess the aftermath, but it was either God or the Devil who, amid countless thousands, saw his family actually awaiting death in Treblinka.

Is he, was he a murderer? No, a thousand times no. His family would have forgiven him at once. Indeed, there was nothing to forgive: the choice was not made for himself, and no one could see the terrible future. I hope he rests in peace. But he died in war: he was killed fighting in the Warsaw uprising.

Sense and sensibility

Roger Scruton

WOMEN PHILOSOPHERS
Edited by Mary Warncock
Dent, £20

Ancient literature contains many references to women philosophers. Although chauvinists and spoilsports continue to doubt the authenticity of the *Xanthippic Dialogues* (Ed. R. Scruton, 1993), nobody can deny that Theano, wife of Pythagoras, was a major contributor to pre-Socratic cosmology, or that Lastheneia, pupil of Plato, enjoyed a high reputation as a teacher of her master's ideas.

Hipparchia, sister of Metrocles and wife of Crates, is singled out for special praise by Diogenes Laertius, and it is clear to any impartial scholar that it was not Aristippus, but his daughter Arete, who founded the Cyrenaic school.

Female philosophers had a special place in Hellenistic civilisation, as propagators of a doomed pagan virtue: noteworthy are the saintly Sosipātrā, lauded by Eunapius, and Hypatia, torn to pieces by a Christian mob in 5th-century Alexandria, a martyr to philosophy who should be revered in the same breath as Socrates.

But what happened thereafter? What role did women play in the great flowering of philosophy in modern times? Mary Warnock attempts to answer that question with extracts from the philosophers themselves. Her book begins with Anne, Lady Conway, a 17th-century thinker admired by Leibniz, and ends with Susan Haack, who has caused a stir among American academics by pouring scorn on political correctness, on relativism, and on feminism itself.

Lady Warnock points out in her preface that women in our civilisation have seldom written abstract philosophical argument, except in the context of religious meditation: and religious meditation sorts ill with the open-mindedness of modern philosophy.

This is one explanation for the comparative lack of significant women philosophers in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Another explanation is that educated women have in modern times preferred to enjoy the fruits of abstract thought, but not to waste the time involved in culling them.

This is certainly the impression given by Mme de Staël, by George Eliot, Georges Sand and Elizabeth Browning. Whatever the cause, the contribution of women to modern philosophy seems to have been, until the present century, nugatory. How rapidly things have changed can be judged from the fact that the greatest living English philosopher (Elizabeth Anscombe), and the greatest living philosopher-novelist (Iris Murdoch) are both women.

Each receives due recognition from Mary Warnock, who praises Elizabeth Anscombe in terms that would be more frequently employed had not this excellent woman publicly denounced the corruption of modern moral philosophy.

Mary Warnock is firmly wedded to the prevailing academic conception of the subject. She excludes from her collection those like Simone Weil, in whom profundity of thought is not matched by clarity of argument, and those like Julia Kristeva and Luce Iragary, who are perhaps too infected by bourgeois-baiting paradox for her liking. Nor does she make room for the new-style "feminist philosophy" which, she implies, is no better than an exercise in self-serving rhetoric.

As for those whom she includes, she is surely right to accord such importance to Anne Conway, whose discussion of individual essence is one of the most striking things that I have read on this immensely difficult topic. And she is right to give space to Phillipa Foot, who, despite the sparseness of her publications, remains one of the most important moral philosophers now alive.

The well-chosen passages from Simone de Beauvoir and Hannah Arendt show these two humane thinkers at their most intriguing, and lead one to regret that neither of them could curtail the monstrous intellectual egoism of Sartre and Heidegger, whose lovers they nevertheless were.

Reading Hannah Arendt is a good way of reminding yourself of the sensibility lacking from contemporary academic philosophy — namely an awareness of the fate of civilisation and an openness to experience. There is not much sensibility in the rambling thoughts of Mary Midgley on animals, even less in Onora O'Neill's discussion (however cogent) of duty and virtue, and none whatsoever in Susan Haack's account of "foundherentism" — a theory as forbidding as its name.

And this is interesting: for if you were to ask yourself precisely what women could contribute to philosophy as *women*, the answer would surely be the sensibility which is so evident in Hannah Arendt, and which we also find in our greatest philosophical novelists, notably in George Eliot.

But women have entered the mainstream of philosophy only since the subject became an academic career. In order to make their mark, they have had to become either dry technicians or humourless feminists. Some would see this as confirming the male hegemony, which offers women no other choice: either you become an *ersatz* man, or you declare war on the man-made culture. A more reasonable conclusion, however, is that philosophy has now become so abstract a discipline that the distinction between the masculine and the feminine no longer applies to it.

There is no more room for a feminine philosophy than for a feminine mathematics: the attempt to "feminise" the discipline can only destroy it. Not since Xanthippe and her circle have women tried to produce a genuinely feminine philosophy, providing consolation to those who live in a disenchanted world. But, as I said, the Xanthippic dialogues are generally dismissed as inauthentic, even by women.

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The dangerously humdrum horror of persecution

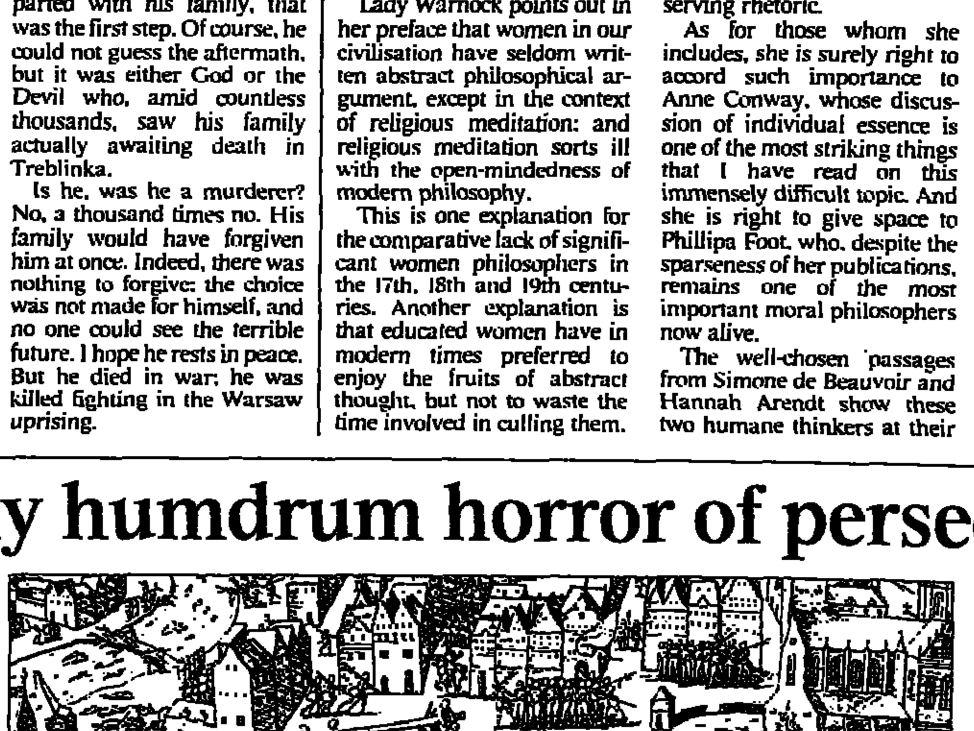
Karen Armstrong

WITCHES AND NEIGHBOURS
The Social and Cultural Context of European Witchcraft
By Robin Briggs
HarperCollins, £25

THE GREAT witch-hunts that erupted in Europe from the late 15th to the 17th century have long been a source of fascination. In all, some 40,000 people were executed for allegedly making a pact with the Devil, flying through the air at night to take part in orgiastic sabbaths and causing harm to their neighbours. From the perspective of rational modernity, it seems that Europe had entered a period of paranoid insanity, though the "witch-hunts" of the 20th century, such as the McCarthy trials, show that we are not immune to a desperate fear of hidden enemies undermining the fabric of society.

In this learned and meticulously researched book, Robin Briggs lays to rest many of the modern myths about the witch craze, without in any way diminishing its horror. He makes it clear that the old belief that the witches were the last practitioners of ancient pagan rituals is mistaken. Nor is it true that the witch-hunters were entirely consumed by misogynistic hatred: 25 per cent of the victims were men.

It is also important to see the witch-hunts in perspective: the historians who claim that nine million people were executed have exaggerated the numbers. Persecution was minimal in 75 per cent of Europe and the fear of witchcraft took a poor third place to the two main anxieties of the period: religious deviance and popular revolt. It is also incorrect to see such famous episodes as Salem and Loudun as typical. Usually these exaggerated scares came at the end of a period of persecution and made people sceptical about the whole phenomenon of diabolic possession.



A contemporary illustration of the mass execution of "devil's disciples" in Holland, 1753

By carefully examining individual cases, Briggs shows that the persecution was a more humdrum affair. The treatises of the professional demonologists tended to give too much emphasis to the exotic sexual element of witchcraft. In fact, witch-hunting was chiefly confined to small villages where subsistence and survival were precarious, especially during this period of social and political change. Fear of witches had less to do with sexual repression than with envy, hunger, pain and the terror of final destitution.

Briggs paints a convincing picture of the grim struggle for existence in the villages of early modern Europe. A goodwill economy prevailed. People depended upon one another for survival. To turn away a needy neighbour or to refuse to co-operate in ploughing arrangements were aggressive acts. They induced guilt and anger which were readily projected onto the offender. If illness or misfortune struck one of the parties involved at a later date, it was all too easy to attribute it to *maleficium*.

Nevertheless, social causes cannot wholly account for this complex phenomenon. Briggs skilfully shows how the myths of witchcraft were linked with fundamental human experiences of pain and anxiety, often connected with the dependency of early childhood. They were associated with motherhood, sustenance and with oedipal relations between parents and children which had never been worked out and which, in times of stress, festered into murderous hostility. It is also sadly true that persecution of a specific enemy helps to unite a community during a crisis.

This lurid and important book is also a cautionary tale. Briggs points out that we cannot afford to feel superior to our ancestors. The present fashion for the occult shows that a significant number of people in our own society are eager to flee the constraints of logic and reason. The recent cases of alleged satanic child abuse have revived many of the old myths which, in the past, led society to persecute witches, heretics, lepers and Jews. At a time when the persecution and demonisation of enemies is on the increase in Europe, which is once again in the grip of economic, political and social crises, the scenario described by Briggs has a sinister relevance.

Karen Armstrong's A History of Jerusalem *will be published by HarperCollins in July*

Revival of the bestial bard

Ian McIntyre

A PECULIAR MAN
A Life of George Moore
By Tony Gray
Sinclair-Stevenson, £20

The title of this entertaining study, the first of Moore for 60 years, comes from a letter to his mother. "I was born, I live, I shall die a peculiar man," he wrote. "I couldn't be commonplace, were I to try."

Tony Gray believes that his subject — "Misunderstood Child, Absentee Landlord, Eccentric Author, Aspiring Lecher and *Prose Stylist*" — was not exaggerating. He also feels a certain affinity with him — "Like Moore, I think Ireland is a fatal disease from which both of us were lucky enough to escape for the greater part of our lives."

Moore escaped initially to Paris. He badly wanted to be a painter, although as he took a valet with him he was not an altogether typical denizen of the Latin Quarter.

Back in London, success as a writer proved elusive. A poem about a young man's love for a beautiful corpse ("Poor breasts! Whose nipples sins alone have fed./ Poor desecrated head!") caused one reviewer to dub him "The Bestial Bard" and recommended he be "whipped at the cart's tail."

His first novel, *A Modern Lover*, published in 1883, was banned by the circulating libraries as unsuitable for young ladies. When it was followed, two years later, by *A Mummer's Wife*, William Archer told Bernard Shaw he had been reading "a most wonderful Naturalistic book" by a new writer. Shaw, hearing the author's name, was incredulous. "Nonsense," he said. "I know George Moore. He couldn't possibly write a real book." He also invited the mockery of Oscar Wilde: "Moore took seven years to discover grammar, and then discovered the paragraph".

If the learning process was painfully slow, it was impressively thorough. He devoured modern French and English literature, Gray writes, "with single-minded ferocity". Within a decade he had emerged not only a popular novelist but also as a subtle and imaginative stylist.

He was a penetrating critic, too. "Why does he always avoid decisive action?" (this of Henry James). "Mr James's people live in a calm, sad and very polite twilight of volition." His admiration for Stevenson was qualified by a perceptive paradox: "He never wrote a line that failed to delight me; but he never wrote a book." Proust, he told Nancy Cunard, wrote like a man "trying to plough a field with a pair of knitting needles".

In middle life he was drawn back to his roots in Ireland. His Dublin neighbours found him tiresome; one hired an Italian organ-grinder to play beneath his windows when he was writing.

Yeats acknowledged that it would not have been possible to establish the Irish National Theatre without Moore's knowledge of the stage, but his contribution to the Irish literary revival was uneven. Gray describes him crawling into barrow graves with the poet George Russell (known as AE) during a Hulot-esque bicycling excursion to the Boyne valley. AE was confident that the island's old pagan gods would manifest themselves, a happy epiphany denied them by the untimely arrival of two Presbyterian ministers.

Moore's suggestion that *The Arabian Nights* should be translated into Irish led to accusations that he wished an indecent book to be put in the hands of the peasantry, and eventually he became disillusioned. "The Irish are a cantankerous, hateful race," he decided. "Only as policemen, pugilists, and priests have they succeeded, with here and there a successful lawyer".

And the occasional writer, of course: "Yeats, standing lost in meditation before a congregation of white swans assembled on the lake; looking himself in his old cloak like a huge umbrella left behind by some picnic party." Moore did not achieve much with brush and palette in his Paris years, but those long evenings at Les Nouvelles Athenes, the café that was the haunt of Manet and Degas and Pissaro, had not been wasted. In the mature work — *Hail and Farewell, The Brook Kerith, Heloise and Abelard* — it is his painter's eye which brings the printed page alive.

Tony Gray believes that his book will lead to a general revival of interest in Moore's work. He is a fluent and persuasive advocate.

HUGH LANE MUNICIPAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART

An ambivalent Irishman: Max Beerbohm's cartoon of W. B. Yeats introducing Moore to the fairy queen

Alexander Chancellor on the complex charms of Florence

Room for another view

FLORENCE
A Portrait
By Michael Levey
Cape, £25

Florence is not to everybody's taste. In fact, it is not really to mine. There is an air of dourness and melancholy about it. It is cramped and overbearing. Those massive medieval-Renaissance palaces, with their heavy rustication and thickly barred ground floor windows, look grim and joyless. The streets are too narrow or too wide; the squares too large or too small. It is not a comfortable city to visit. Yet people do visit it in terrifying numbers. You can hardly walk in it, let alone park in it. Who would not rather be in Rome or Venice — or even Milan — than in this forbidding, overcrowded place?

These are thoughts I would probably not have dared express before reading Sir Michael Levey's book. But this lover of the city — and great authority on it — reveals that he is not blind to the limits of its appeal. People do not come to Florence "for 'fun' or for a magnificent urban spectacle," he says; and if any do, "they will, in both cases, be disappointed." They come as pilgrims, "impelled by belief in, or acceptance of, a cultural faith as intense and ardent as any religious one". "Almost too well do they know that they have come to encounter a unique, narrow but tremendous experience, the explosion of art and culture which we call the Renaissance and which detonated first or most patently in Florence."

Sir Michael does not undervalue the great explosion of artistic genius which happened in Florence in the early 15th century, when Ghiberti, Brunelleschi, Donatello, Masaccio, Fra Angelico, Uccello and others suddenly leapt upon the stage, but he questions some of the myths which the Victorians generated in their excitement at discovering it.

The Renaissance, he points out, was not a purely Florentine or even Italian phenomenon, but Europe-wide. While 15th-century Florence had a good claim to be the cultural capital of Europe, the claim was open to challenge — especially by Bruges, in the kingdom of Burgundy, which was supreme in "modern" music and had in Jan van Eyck one of the greatest painters of the age.

Relief by Giambologna, commissioned by Francesco di Medici (d. 1587) who opened the Uffizi as a museum

While much has been made since of the Renaissance artists' "rediscovery" of ancient Rome and Greece, the author says the connection wouldn't have occurred to people at the time. It was their fresh naturalism, not their homage to the past, which astonished. "The culmination of that *verismo* movement is Donatello's polychromed wooden statue of St Mary Magdalene, which offends nearly all the canons, real or supposed, of classical antique sculpture, but is nevertheless typical of 15th-century Florentine ideals," he writes.

Sir Michael does not remotely seek to denigrate the great artistic flowering of 15th and 16th-century Florence, which is all the more remarkable for having mostly taken place against a background of civil war, plague, fire, famine and frantic political upheaval, but he wishes that the modern hordes of cultural pilgrims who make the city so intolerable today would not drool over it to the exclusion of all else. Not only did the period produce some poor art as well as good (and I am glad to find Sir Michael saying that "the palaces are more monotonous and restricted in their character and beauty than is often recognised"); but good art didn't die with Michelangelo, either.

There is, the author insists, a "second" Florence which is quite unfairly neglected. "There is a widespread assumption — encouraged by the bias of most of the writing in English at least — that the best days of Florence were over by 1600. Whatever followed has to be, is sometimes openly treated as, inferior artistically, as in other ways," he writes. But, says Sir Michael, the Medici dynasty continued to sponsor architecture, painting, and sculpture of high quality right up to its extinction in 1737.

The examples he gives in this beautifully illustrated book encourage the reader to believe him. The church of San Gaetano of 1648, which he calls "the most cogent and the most complete answer to any lingering questions about whether post-Renaissance Florence produced any worthwhile architecture", does indeed look marvellous and has the added advantage over most Renaissance churches of actually having a completed façade. Above all, it is cheerful and exuberant.

It is just one of several mouthwatering examples Sir Michael gives of "great works of art, of architecture and sculpture especially, that are unencumbered by hordes of people, and unillustrated and unpraised, when indeed even mentioned, in the more popular type of guidebook". I will make a bee-line to them on my next visit.

Derwent May on the latest volume of reticent autobiography from one of our finest travel writers

Everything but the wife

THE WORLD, THE WORLD
By Norman Lewis
Cape, £18.99

This must be one of the weirdest chapters of autobiography ever written. The travel writer, Norman Lewis, who keeps his eye on the world with such sharpness and tenacity, has always been sparing with information about himself — even in *Who's Who* he fails to give his date of birth — and here we go from the outbreak of the Second World War, through travels in Guatemala, Vietnam, Thailand, Spain and Cuba and an interlude in an Essex parsonage, up to a recent visit to India, with practically no dates being provided at all.

We learn hardly any more about his wives. A wonderfully vivid opening section describes the house in Bloomsbury where his Italian in-laws lived in a dense colony of relations, with an owl from Brescia that had "imperturbable golden eyes" feeding on live chicks in the dining room, and his father-in-law's copies of the Sistine Chapel paintings on the ceiling. But his wife Ernestina appears in one sentence, and then goes off for the duration of the war to Guatemala.

She and Lewis have a stiff though friendly conversation over breakfast in Guatemala City about seven years later, during which he pays as much attention to a passing Indian with a vermilion kilt and a cage of Coca-Cola cans on his back as he does to Ernestina, and after this she finally vanishes from the story. During the Essex interlude there is a passing mention of another wife ("an old friend, Lesley") and some children ("born within yards of a river, my children reached their teens without sighting a frog"), but they fade from the scene even more rapidly.

What interests Norman Lewis is his travels — and it is hardly surprising. For wherever he goes, drama clings to him. He cannot get on a plane without finding an executioner on it, going out to garotte someone. On a flight to Saigon, he encounters a French police officer, then meets at dinner the policeman's Vietnamese mistress, "tinkling softly with concealed jewellery as she moved about", and her friend, Chu Ti, a girl who has been fighting for the rebels and by contrast wears country cottons and clogs.

Chu Ti has now become a *fidèle-ardente* of the bizarre new religion of Cao-Dai ("the Universal Religion of the Age of Improved Transport"), and Lewis is able to go with her to watch a cardinal of the new faith ("with sprouting wings") come ashore in a junk adorned with plastic monkeys on the masts and a giant portrait of its chief saint, Victor Hugo. A bishop in a winged hat also leaps from the boat and tells Chu Ti she has been promoted. Lewis is blessed with such curiosity and openness that adventures like this happen to him on almost every page.

But as it proceeds his autobiography meets another difficulty. Many of his wanderings and investigations have already been written up in remarkable books, and he does not want to repeat himself. At one point after the war he went to live in a remote fishing village in Spain. His book about that, *Voices of the Old Sea*, is one of the most beautiful and sensitive accounts of a passing way of life that I have ever read, its characters slowly unfurling to the reader's understanding as if by a process of nature, the moods of sea and sky exquisitely evoked, and Lewis as usual hardly there except as a fine register of it all.

Here he gives a little more information about how he came to be in the village, with some characteristic touches such as the way he added up prices for the unarithmetical fishermen, but the story has really been told already. His chapter about his remarkable book on the Mafia, *The Honoured Society*, is even slighter — scarcely more than a footnote. We get an amusing glimpse of Lewis's publisher, Jonathan Cape, who never travelled further than Eastbourne and never talked about anything else — and a depressing glimpse of Hemingway in his farmhouse in Cuba, slow-moving, suspicious, "pulled down by the wolves of weakness and old age".

Lewis: admired by Greene

A theme, though, begins to emerge in the latter part of the book. When he goes back to Farol, the Spanish village by the sea, Lewis finds it has disappeared, obliterated by tourist hotels. In Vietnam, he watches fishermen impassively guiding tiny fish into their nets in the Black River as the French pour shells into the matted jungle above them. The destruction of ancient ways of life, usually by barbarous means, starts to preoccupy him.

In Guatemala, which he says is "ruled by 14 rich families", he sees "a vast tragedy" spreading through the mountains as the Indian villagers who had been calling for the return of their ancestral lands are "punished" and driven into "voluntary collaboration centres". In Brazil he sees something of the "near-annihilation of the native races" in the late Sixties, and tells some stories of terrible cruelty, sometimes even carried out with the collaboration of American fundamentalist missionaries. In fact his reports on Brazil in *The Sunday Times* led to the foundation of the organisation Survival International.

He has come to believe in the innocence of the American Indians, and is "persistently and increasingly of the opinion that Voltaire was right" with his theory of the Noble Savage.

In the last chapter he tells a sympathetic young Brahmin how as a boy in Wales he was always crossing the mountains looking for a wilder valley, and in the closing sentences of the book he confides what drives him now: "I'm looking for the people who have always been there, and belong to the places where they live. The others I do not wish to see."

The World, The World may not be Lewis's best book — but everyone who has felt, with Graham Greene, that he is "one of the best writers of our century" will undoubtedly want to read it.

Soviet saga without soul

Natasha Fairweather

THE ODESSANS
By Irina Ratushinskaya
Translated by Geoffrey Smith
Sceptre, £16.99

WHEN the KGB arrested Irina Ratushinskaya in 1983 they were confident that she would break easily under interrogation. She seemed so small and frail, with the wide-eyed expression of a child. But the KGB underestimated the courage of this fervently Christian young poet. Three years into her sentence in a labour camp for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", Ratushinskaya went on hunger strike. With her health deteriorating, foreign governments lobbied, pressure groups pressurised and in 1986, two days before the Reykjavik superpower summit, Ratushinskaya was freed.

A decade later, Ratushinskaya and her husband are now well ensconced in their semi in north London. They have learnt English. The trees they planted in their garden have, like their children, thrived. And yet, like other Soviet dissident writers, most notably Solzhenitsyn, robbed of a cause Ratushinskaya's muse seems to have been silenced. Having failed to publish any poetry in recent years, she has turned to writing novels.

The Odessans is the result of this change of literary direction. Billed by the British publishers as a Russian *Wild Swans*, the novel tells the history of early 20th-century Russia and Ukraine through the lives of three generations of three families from Odessa. It is an ambitious undertaking even for this brave Odessan.

Ratushinskaya: without struggle; her muse is elusive

Odessa has always been different from other cities in the region. A free port on the Black Sea, built on the wealth of traders and smugglers from all over the world, it was always more cosmopolitan and culturally varied than other places. And it is this spirit of freedom and southern insouciance which Ratushinskaya has tried to capture against the background of the terrible political excesses of the period.

The Odessans begins in 1905, as it ends 40 years later, with bloodshed and war. The Russians are facing humiliating defeat in the war with Japan, revolution is brewing and, just outside Odessa harbour, the sailors on the battleship Potemkin have mutinied.

Meanwhile, the Petrov children, scions of a noble Russian family, have just met the Teslenkos, a family of Polish-Ukranian extraction, and the Jewish Geibers, whose family were ruined in the pogroms. It proves to be a fateful meeting for, through all the hardship which is to afflict Odessa and the Soviet Union, these three families remain intimately connected.

And here lies the novel's weakness. Having created an unwieldy cast of characters buffeted all over Europe by political events, Ratushinskaya is forced to rely on coincidence and fortuitous encounters to hold her narrative together. Credible characterisation and good writing are abandoned as the action gallops from war to civil war and back again.

Take, for example, the fate of Vladek Teslenko, a medical orderly serving on the Polish front in 1915. In the space of 22 pages Vladek meets and parts with his best friend Pavel Petrov, then runs into Pavel's sister Zina, whom he has always loved. Vladek marries her, adopts an orphan, and watches Zina die of typhus, before he himself is abandoned in Poland by the author and is only once heard of again. Clichés and schmaltzy love scenes thrive under this kind of narrative stress.

RATUSHINSKAYA has also been ill-served by her translator who, making no attempt at consistency of style, puts contemporary slang ("hunky dory", "bonking", "faffing around") into the mouths of turn-of-the-century characters, yet simultaneously peppers the text with anachronisms such as "yonder" and "of yore".

Muscovites responded apathetically to the publication of the Russian edition of *The Odessans* last month. Perhaps they sensed that this readable, but unremarkable novel lacked that quality for which Ratushinskaya was previously famed: soul.

Natasha Fairweather is Literary Editor of The Moscow Times

Simple things are best

POETRY

IN RUTH PADEL's new book, *Fusewire* (Chatto, £6.99), a series of love poems to an Irish Republican are spliced together with historical poems on the colonisation of Ireland. The book has a thrillerish atmosphere, and the poems make a point of filtering in the sex and politics of ordinary life. Even Radio 3 here, offers "love songs from Azerbaijan".

The style is to throw words at things and hope they stick. The sea is "the bluest eye./ a mess of cobalt" — a nod at Toni Morrison's novel and the name of an element — while an erotic sensation is likened to "As if I'd never known red./ Hi-volt chillies/ doing press-ups in a haybag of velvet". The prevailing mood is "a mad/ software breathlessness", the ardour of address sometimes flattering, more often uncomfortable to a male reader.

The excitement of these short lines, hot imagery and frequent one-word sentences is palpable, but the poems, designed for instability, effervesce rather than impress. "How could all that disappear?" Padel asks at one point. The wisdom is you have to be sober to play drunk.

Charles Boyle, in *Paleface* (Faber, £6.99), writes about life and London — quite possibly he is tired of both with the perspective of an outsider and the understanding of an insider. There is a continual odd accent to things, harnessed to a command of idiom that seems paradoxically un-English: "a lingering pink over Acton/ that seems reluctant to call it a day."

A long poem called *Velcro* takes a mordant anthropologist's eye view of the English: "Their code of justice/ roughly translates: a tooth/ for a camelhair coat,/ an eye for a Toyota". The best poems in *Paleface* are sharp and skewed takes on our haplessly systematic mongrel existence.

W. S. Graham died ten years ago. *Selected Poems* (Faber, £9.99) is the third book of his poems to appear posthumously. I never heard him read, and wish I had: there is a tremendously touching vocal quality in his poems. The words keep insisting on being no more than themselves, but what looks like a voguish intellectual gambit is actually nothing of the sort, and more a childlike scrupulousness. It is more a type of giving than a type of denial. "The words are mine," he writes, "the thoughts are all/ Yours as they occur behind/ The bat of your vast unseen eyes." But it is more lasting than bronze, as the poet said.

Graham lived most of his life in Cornwall and his poems *To Roger Hilton's Watch, The Thermal Stairs* (to Peter Lanyon) or *Dear Bryan Winter* both commemorate and recall his friends among the Cornish naive or abstract painters. It is rare to find anything as nakedly affecting as *Dear Bryan Winter*: "This is only a note/ To say how sorry I am/ You died." He remembers a visit to London and a meeting with Eliot, and ends with sumptuous humility and oddity: "Between the big buildings/ I sat like a flea crouched/ In the stopped works of a watch." He should be read — they don't make them like him any more.

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Already established as a successful sales professional of new technology, either in the form of plant and equipment or consultancy and R & D, you will be used to communicating at the highest level. You will be able to clearly identify the business issues surrounding the acquisition and exploitation of new technology. As a high performer, you should be eager to join a team that has taken Pera to the forefront of technology development in the European manufacturing industry.

Mechanical, Electronic and Materials Engineers

To £25k plus benefits. Ref: ME1

A professional that can demonstrate an excellent track record in the design and/or development of manufacturing processes and plant, you will have been involved in one of the following areas:

Metals Cutting, Forming and Surfacing
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If you have a good first degree in a technology relevant subject and would like a new and challenging career in technology development, please write enclosing your CV and a recent photograph, quoting appropriate reference to Bridgette Moy at Pera, Technology Centre, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE13 OPB.

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If you have excellent communication and analytical skills and a desire to succeed, then this opportunity could be for you.

Please telephone for a brochure and application form (or send a SAF) to:
Angela Redman, Director of Personnel, Nicholson Leslie Limited,
6 Braham Street, London. E1 8ED. Tel: 0171 480 7200

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ICI is a truly global enterprise employing 65,000 people across more than 200 locations in over 30 countries.

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In addition to at least 5 years' sophisticated UK and international compensation and benefits exposure, ideally gained within a large blue-chip multi-national business or consultancy, it would be an advantage to have experience covering other aspects of Human Resources as this role will not be seen in isolation but part of an integrated, internal consultancy function.

In addition to a competitive package, relocation to the North West will be available if required.

To apply, please send your CV, including salary details, to Mark Tulitt at Macmillan Davies, Salisbury House, Bluecoats, Hertford SG14 1PU, quoting reference number MD4788.

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Sales Director

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Vodafone Group Plc is a market leader in mobile telephony and a FTSE 100 company. Vodacall Ltd has been created to meet the massive growth in the consumer market by providing attractively priced equipment, easily understood charges and fast and efficient customer services.

- **THE RESPONSIBILITY** as a member of the Board and reporting to the MD, is to lead and direct the Sales primarily via multiple retail outlets and devise and manage a marketing strategy to meet growth and market share targets.
- **THE NEED** is for an experienced Director able to work at the most senior levels with high calibre sales and marketing skills developed in a very competitive retail or consumer goods environment. A demonstrably successful track record of achievement in developing a high volume consumer business through major retailers is essential.

Write in confidence enclosing a Curriculum Vitae and remuneration package, quoting reference *L8116* to:

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8 Hallam Street, London, W1N 6DJ Fax: 0171 631 5317
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Outstanding Opportunities in the fast growing Interactive 3D Graphics Software Business

Superscape Ltd is the leading provider of software for creating interactive three-dimensional virtual reality worlds and simulations. Our software is presently distributed in over 26 countries and used for applications that include training, marketing and sales, product design and entertainment. Superscape Ltd went public in 1994 and is listed on the London Stock Exchange as the largest quoted VR company in the world. We are seeking high calibre professionals to exploit our lead.

Educational Business Development
Reference EDU/SM

Entertainment Business Development
Reference ENT/SB

Business Development
Reference BUS/ART

Pan European Roles c£45,000 + Benefits + Car

Based at our prestigious headquarters in Hampshire, these revenue generation roles will involve working throughout Europe with major Educational, Entertainment and Developer establishments. Your aim will be to identify markets and create sales of Superscape's unique PC based Virtual Reality authoring software, VRT, which has significant advantages over traditional training, education and entertainment software tools. The roles also involve consultancy to further develop business activities either directly or through third party developers.

International experience and a second language would be an important asset, combined with software sales experience and director level negotiation skills. The successful candidates will be working with a team of highly motivated sales staff and you will be expected to contribute to the overall sales objectives.

Graphics Designers & C Programmers Reference AES/07
Hampshire

A major part of Superscape's business involves development of VR based solutions. The rapid growth of this activity means that Superscape seeks to enhance its expert team with additional graphics designers and C programmers. Applicants should have proven skills and be self motivated.

Software Engineers
Reference AW/112
Hampshire £25-35,000 + Benefits

We also have a requirement for additional software engineers to work in small teams developing future VR products. At least 2-3 years C++, OO design, Unix and Windows experience and a background in product development for multiple target platforms.

Please send your current CV along with salary details and a daytime telephone number, quoting the relevant reference number to:
Mr A Tuck, Managing Director, Superscape Ltd, Cromwell House, Bartley Wood Business Park, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9XA. Tel: 01256 745745 Fax: 01256 745777

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ATTN: TINA SHAZELL, General Manager

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MARKET RESEARCHERS required by our client with 5 plus years experience in Quantitative and Qualitative, Business to Business and Consumer. Might consider part-time or job share. Location EC1. Imminent move to North London. C.V.'s to Box No 4868 or Fitz JP Associates 01992 577278.

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Our client is a well respected and solidly established Contract Hire & Fleet Management Company. It now requires a Director Designate to lead the sales force and spearhead new growth. Reporting to the Managing Director, the right candidate will be an experienced Contract Hire specialist capable of training the existing sales team and developing new team concepts and approaches to attract more business and customer retention. A background with an established Contract Hire Company is essential and experience in skilful presentation at board level is necessary. There will be a high basic salary of Circa 35K and a bonus which could take on target earnings to 45K plus car and other benefits.

To apply please telephone Leah Levy on 0171 [illegible] or write to Executive Prospects Limited, The Isis Building, 193 Marsh Wall, London, E14 9FY. Quoting Reference EPL7201.

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Barry Watson - 0171 930 5041 - 19 Charing Cross Road, London - WC2H 0ES.
Lindsay Grant - 0131 225 8414 - 63 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2JG.
Julie Longdon - 01703 351135 - 1 Grosvenor Square, Southampton SO15 2SB.
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Circa £20,000 pa

THE ROLE: Reporting to the Chief Executive. To work as part of a team providing and developing solutions for self-employed and micro businesses. Deliver target consultancy and training support to enable ethnic minority and inner city business to break into mainstream markets

THE PERSON: Professional qualifications and fully experienced in one of the following areas; Marketing, Financial/Management Accounting, Management, Development Training essential. Have at least 2 years post qualification, experience and keen to provide quality consultancy services. Must be able to prepare and appraise business proposals. A commitment to non-discriminatory and unbiased consultancy service provision essential.

Ref: BC/3

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR

Circa £18,000 pa

THE ROLE Reporting to the Chief Executive you will be responsible for recruitment/assessment of trainees for Business Start-up Programmes and Skills Development for existing business proprietors. This will include liaising with clients, funders and trainers and the management of a portfolio of training projects and contracts.

THE PERSON Good planning and communication skills and Training qualification essential. Word processing and data base skills plus the ability to co-ordinate. Must be committed to the provision of high quality training aimed at small businesses and unemployed people. Enjoy a challenge and can work under pressure. Previous project management or contract management experience necessary.

Ref: TC/1

SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER

Circa £15,000 pa

THE ROLE This new position will oversee the development and provision of central administration and office bureau services to staff and clients of the Company, reporting to the Chief Executive

THE PERSON To succeed you will require previous experience of planning and delivering Administrative Support Services at a senior level. Must be very quality conscious with, RSA III typing qualification and previous supervisory/management experience. Word processing and database management experience essential, including the use of Windows and Microsoft Packages **Ref BSM/1**

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT (2 POSTS)

Circa £11,000 pa

THE ROLE Responsible to the Support Services Manager you will provide information to clients, undertake typing for staff and clients, maintain client database systems and carry out routine office work.

THE PERSON Ideally RSAII/III typing qualifications and with a minimum of 2 year Administrative experience. Must be extremely polite, reliable and enjoy developing client relationship. A good standard of English and the and the ability to converse with a diverse range of clients essential. **Ref: AA/2**

To apply for any of the above positions please telephone Jackie Williamson, Administrator, on 0115 942 3772 for an application form.
Closing date for receipt of completed applications
Friday 26th April 1996

All Posts are offered on a Fixed Term Basis up to 2 years, subject to satisfactory performance and continued funding

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fmcg

MANAGING DIRECTOR
for
INDUSTRIAL LUBRICANTS

LEEDS **circa £65,000 plus bonus and benefits**

THE COMPANY: ROCOL LTD, within the Specialty Materials Division of the Morgan Crucible Company plc, is a pioneer and market leader in industrial lubricants, supplying advanced products for Maintenance and Servicing (Rocol Lubricants) and Production Process (Rocol Metal Working Lubricants) applications worldwide. The Company and its manufacturing operations are based in Leeds, generating a turnover in the region of £16 million per annum, and employing around 150 people. Rocol Ltd markets its products either direct to the end user or through distributors, and increasingly export markets are gaining in importance. Following recent reorganisation the position of Managing Dirtector, Rocol Ltd has been created.

THE ROLE: The primary task is to expand the Company market share, to develop new products, to expand export business and to establish offshore sales subsidiaries where appropriate. The above objectives are to be met whilst continuing the upward pressure on margins and overall profitability, and to accelerate the shift from a product/technical emphasis towards a customer/market focus.

THE PERSON:
- ideally be a graduate between 35-45 years of age
- have marketing experience of high margin branded goods, possibly in a fmcg environment
- be an experienced general manager of a sophisticated sales and marketing driven organisation
- be streetwise and numerate, comfortable in managing finance, production and other functional areas
- be able to demonstrate success in generating 'pull-through sales' often via distributors and in overseas markets
- be strategic in thought and the direction of others
- have product launch experience with a passion for customer service, quality and real growth

Please send curriculum vitae and current salary details to: G Copley, 100 Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6EE. Quoting ref: RL/96.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTANT REQUIRED
c £18,000 P.A.

Courier company, NW10 is seeking to recruit for above position. Reporting to the Finance Manager, you must be able to produce management accounts to strict deadlines, financial reporting and supervision of small accounts team. Candidates must have a solid accountancy background with analytical skills; supervisory and P.C. skills also essential.

Please send your C.V. to:
M Bhagat, Delta Air & Road Transport plc,
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A leading Israeli manufacturer of envelopes, cash register roles and continuous stationary is looking for an agent distributor who is experienced in selling to Government Departments, Direct Mail Organisations, Billing Companies and Industry.

Applicants should fax a full resume to MR Ab Wittenburg (Agent for Germany) on 0049 5052 1387. (fax)
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Our client is a leading UK based global investment bank with exceptional trading capability and investment banking flair, committed to recruiting and developing individuals of the highest calibre.

This business focused Human Resources function plays a major role in supporting the firm in all aspects of HR management and is in the process of building an innovative, high profile team that will drive change and add value, working in partnership with business managers. A number of high calibre HR Managers are required to take responsibility for a range of business and support functions.

All roles are generalist, advising on issues such as recruitment, training and development, employee relations, counselling, compensation, succession planning and performance management, in a global context.

You will have a minimum of five years' HR experience gained within the business or support areas of a City institution. Individuals from progressive corporate or professional environments will also be considered especially if they have had exposure to IT or finance professionals.

You must also possess the intellect and impact needed to apply your abilities in a highly demanding environment where timely business-focused solutions are imperative. Strong interpersonal skills, credibility and a high level of commitment are pre-requisites.

These positions offer excellent career and reward opportunities for high calibre individuals.

Interested candidates should submit a detailed CV to Paul Mewis at BBM Selection 76 Watling Street London EC4M 9BJ or call him on 0171-248 3653. All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

76, Watling Street,
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Reporting to the Managing Director, you will be responsible for managing and developing the Sales Team to achieve Cristie's business objectives, and personally contribute towards the company's strategic direction. With a strong track record of corporate sales plus experience and understanding of the PC channels, you will possess excellent skills in leadership and business management, probably supported by an HND or degree level qualification. This role presents a real opportunity for rapid progression to board level subject to the experience, ability and business achievement of the successful candidate.

Please forward your full CV and covering letter to Cristie's retained management recruitment consultant, **Kevin Lamb at Kestrel Network Sciences, Talbot House, High Street, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 7AQ Tel: 01344 762616 Fax: 01344 762573 E-mail: 100315.1740@compuserve.com**

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Managers Sought For Expanding European Operations

Fair, Isaac is the world's leading supplier of decision support models and software to the retail, finance and insurance industries.
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To support the continuing growth of its European operations we now require two further professionals to play key roles in developing the Company's success.

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This role will have the responsibility for providing pre and post sales support, project management, consultancy and client training for Fair, Isaac's Application Screening Software products. Relevant experience, preferably to the finance industry, will include a minimum of 8 years in the software industry, pre-sales and IBM mainframe CICS and COBOL to project manager level.

Credit Scoring Project Manager

Responsible for the development, leadership and management of analytical scoring projects for both UK and European customers. Fair, Isaac's client list includes many of Europe's leading financial institutions and thus you will be expected to provide innovative solutions to the customers needs as well as consulting on the live implementation and monitoring of scoring models.

You will be a respected specialist in the development and use of scoring and must have extensive practical experience of scoring gained across a wide range of products. You will be PC literate and preferably proficient in SAS. Experience of staff management is desirable.

Ideal candidates for both positions will be self-motivated, achievement oriented individuals who feel comfortable in client facing situations and have had a strong academic record. Fluency in one or more other European Language will be a definite asset.

The candidates will be based in our Birmingham office and will be expected to travel to client sites as required.

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In addition to the business development responsibilities, you will be a key player in an on-going project to build a dynamic framework for further profitable growth within this customer focused organisation. Responsibilities will include contributing to re-engineering solutions in conjunction with consultants and other team members, involving other employees for specialist advice and briefing senior management on project progress.

Applications are invited from post-graduates who are fluent in English and at least one other major European language and who preferably, have been exposed to more than one European business environment. Candidates must demonstrate exceptional interpersonal skills; the ability to present effectively at senior management level and persuasiveness in their communication.

A very attractive package including company car and other benefits are offered with this position.

Interested applicants should forward their Curriculum Vitae (including details of current salary and benefits) to Monica Whitefield, Human Resources Manager, Pitney Bowes Finance PLC, New City Court, 20 St Thomas Street, London SE1 9RS. The closing date for applications is Monday 22 April 1996.

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Mrs Judith L Ferguson-Bell
Administration Manager
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- ● Co-ordinate all internal support to deliver specific client programmes covering marketing and systems.

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*Interested candidates should write promptly to **Mark Rowley** or **Charles Austin** at Herst Austin Rowley, 30 St. George Street, London W1R 9FA, enclosing a full Curriculum Vitae and quoting reference HAR112.*
*E-mail: **har@globalnet.co.uk.***

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Experience of settlement systems including CMP, GLOSS, RIMS and XTAS would be an advantage.

We offer excellent opportunities for career development, both in the UK and overseas. Full training will be given and salary and benefits package are highly competitive.

If you need a new challenge and have the qualities to progress in a stimulating environment please write to:

Box No 4877
c/o The Times Newspaper, PO Box 3553,
Virginia Street, London, E1 9XT.

RETAIL MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Royal Collection Enterprises, the trading subsidiary of the Royal Collection Trust, manages all aspects of public access to Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.
The retail section is expanding rapidly and two key appointments are now required.

Product Manager £22,500

An experienced retail buyer, with proven product development and negotiating skills, is required to carry the range forward and manage the development of new products. Experience in developing high-quality reproductions from original objects and the transference of fine art images to commercial product would be a considerable advantage. This is initially a fixed-term appointment to 31st December 1998, with the possibility of an extension.

Merchandiser c.£18,000

A Merchandiser is required to plan and manage the stock ledger and gross margin, specifically using a computerised Open To Buy. A range of merchandise management skills, with experience gained in a multiple or department store environment, is essential for this post. This is a permanent position.

Applicants for both positions should be computer literate, well-presented and confident in dealing with senior management.
A full C.V. and covering letter, explaining the contribution you would make to our retail business, should be sent to:
The Retail Manager, Royal Collection Enterprises Ltd., St James's Palace, London SW1A 1JR.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 26th April 1996.

IF THE ONLY CONSTANT IS CHANGE... WHERE ARE YOU?

SALES DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

c£35K package including quality car

'Inertia, stagnation and the failure to recognise change spell disaster for any business, invariably leading to declining standards and profitability.'

Taking stock of our business, we recognised the dangers, acted against them by setting new goals and as a result have achieved rapid year on year growth.

Austin Benn, part of The Corporate Services Group PLC, one of the leading Contract Labour and Training Groups in the U.K. are persuing a strategy which will ensure unprecedented achievements in 1996 and beyond.

To this end we are seeking to recruit highly motivated Sales Development Managers who will spearhead the company's drive for new business.

Leading a team of dedicated Sales Professionals, you will be aged between 28 and 35, be educated to degree standard, will possess a strong sales background and have a proven track record in team building and development. In addition, you will be hungry to contribute to our on-going success, thereby guaranteeing your own.

FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW
CALL MARTIN FORRY NOW ON
0161 877 3313

Austin Benn Consultants Ltd
City Point, 701 Chester Road, Stretford,
Manchester M32 ORW. Fax: 0161 877 2921

THE CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP PLC

SO YOU WANT TO BE IN FILMS?

A special individual is needed to fill this demanding, hands-on, Sales Manager role in London.

Manage all aspects of a lively sales/customer service team for a leading producer of video and CD based learning resources.

Play a central role, as part of the management team, in determining the strategic direction of this small, dynamic, company.

We're embracing changes, both internal and in the marketplace, so you'll need energy, enthusiasm, commitment, leadership qualities - and a sense of fun.

At least 2 years' previous sales management experience is essential, covering both telesales and key account development.

Ready for this opportunity? Send your c.v.
with salary details to:
Pam Lawrenson, Melrose,
16 Bromells Road,
London SW4 OBL.

MELROSE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Up to £45K including Performance bonus.

Two year contract

The new 'Core' Chamber for the East London region has been created with local business and industry support, sponsored by London East TEC and has the backing of ABCC and DTI. There are some 25,000 businesses in the area which covers the boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Newham, Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham and Havering. The Chamber seeks a forward-looking Chief Executive to put it on a sound foundation for the future.

THE JOB – PRIORITY TASKS

- ◆ recruit members to the new Chamber
- ◆ develop new services for the benefit of members
- ◆ build on and strengthen relationships with local business organisations
- ◆ manage the resources of the new Chamber

THE PERSON

- ◆ strong entrepreneurial and selling skills
- ◆ energetic and hands-on
- ◆ understanding of business needs, especially small to medium size enterprises
- ◆ excellent communicator – verbal and written
- ◆ proven experience as a general manager

Experience and knowledge of Chambers is an advantage, but not essential.

For an application form and further details, please contact Marie Brooks, East London Chamber of Commerce Ltd, Cityside House, 40 Adler Street, London E1 1EE or call 0171 377 8874 (Answerphone). Completed application forms should be returned by Friday 3rd May 1996.

THE CORE CHAMBER
East London Chamber of Commerce

Carluccio's, the renowned Italian Food company, requires a

Wholesale Administrator

with special responsibility to assist in product development. We are looking for an organised, numerate and self-motivated person. You must speak Italian *a livello di madrelingua* and your spoken English must also be perfect. A background in a computerised wholesale or buying office environment would be advantageous.

CV with current/last salary to:
Bob Hamilton, Carluccio's Ltd,
28A Neal Street, London WC2H 9PS.

Human Resource Management

Our multinational client is a world leader in the fmcg sector with an enviable brand image and market share. Its commitment to excellence is unrivalled and reflects a belief that high quality, motivated people are the key to sustained success. The company is currently undergoing a planned process of dynamic organisational change and restructuring and requires two high calibre Human Resource Management professionals. If you have a proven track record of results oriented innovation these roles offer a unique opportunity to help shape the organisation's future.

UK Personnel Manager

N.W. ENGLAND

SALARY UP TO £40,000 + CAR + BENEFITS + RELOCATION PACKAGE

Responsible for a team of eight, the UK Personnel Manager will provide a high quality and comprehensive HR service to the Sales and Marketing functions as well as two manufacturing sites. Specific areas in which delivery is essential are:

- Recruitment, including some pan European activity
- Developing IR Strategy in liaison with line management
- Management of UK salary policy
- UK Pensions Administration
- Operation of job evaluation system
- Administration of HQ staff
- Contract management in the areas of Catering, Security and Facilities
- Providing expert advice to management on all aspects of HR

Please quote Ref: JD 50/24

Personnel and Training Manager

NORTH WALES

SALARY C£35,000 + CAR + BENEFITS + RELOCATION PACKAGE

Reporting to the Operations Manager, the Personnel and Training Manager has a team of four HR professionals and is responsible for the delivery of a full personnel and training service to the manufacturing site. Areas of responsibility include:

- Recruitment of salaried and hourly paid staff
- Delivery of a full training service for operators, craft and salaried staff
- IR negotiations and support to site management
- Employee support including counselling and retirement preparation etc
- HR policy interpretation and advice to management
- Provision of a personnel administration service
- Management of contract for security and catering
- Company community involvement

Please quote Ref: JD 50/25

Please send full CV stating salary and quoting the appropriate reference to Cygnus Consulting Ltd, St Clements House, 27 Clements Lane, London EC4N 7AP.

Manager Required

Position Vacant Now
£16,000 - £20,000

UK division of US public company seeks candidates for management position based in the London area. Must possess good command of the English language, both oral and written, a second language preferably German or Dutch will provide additional opportunities for promotion. Must be self motivated and have proven management experience. Possess a degree or similar formal qualification. You must have a full clean driving licence, strong organisational skills and a dedication to customer service. Rapid expansion along with company training programme will provide early promotional and bonus compensation opportunities. Must be open to relocation in future. Please send your CV with salary history to:

CPS Management Services,
Scylla Road, Southern Perimeter Road,
Heathrow Airport Terminal 4,
Hounslow, Middlesex, TW6 3XL.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

SERVICE CALL CENTRE MANAGER

SOUTH LONDON

Salary up to 20K + benefits package

Trolhurst plc is one of the country's major Gas Service companies where quality and customer care come first. The above role holds a key responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Company's Call Centre based in South London which, via the utilisation of up-to-date telephony and computer technology, deals with over 175,000 calls each year and is at the forefront in the chain of delivery of service to our customers. The new appointee will be responsible for leading the Call Centre and its 14+ staff into a new era of planned change with the emphasis on delivering high standards of service. Applicants should be able to:-

- ● Demonstrate a proven track record of success within a Call Centre management environment and a Customer Service culture.
- ● Hold a business qualification.
- ● Be able to demonstrate a high level of interpersonal skills and strong leadership qualities.
- ● Have proven experience in the development and motivation of employees.
- ● Possess exceptional communication and numeracy skills.

The closing date for applications is 19th April 1996. CVs and existing salary details should be sent with a covering letter and marked 'Private and Confidential' to:-

Tony Cordingley, Personnel Director, Trolhurst plc, Unit 22 Bessemer Park, 250 Milkwood Road, Herne Hill, London SE24 0HH.

Trolhurst plc welcomes applications from anyone who considers they match the requirements of an advertised post regardless of gender, race or disability.

TROLHURST
TRUST IN OUR NAME

GRADUATES 23+
Private company seeking to expand, following highly successful fourth year of trading, requires Graduates or those of sound academic background, to be trained to the highest possible standards with aim of full profit participation within 2/3 years.
For further details, call:
JASON LURIE
0171 497 3005

KEY WORKER commercially experienced, fluent English and Romanian. 60% Romanian communication verbal and written, some translation. Salary £15K. CV to Arcon Overseas Ltd, 12 Relton Mews, London SW7 1ET.

Import/Export Manager

Manager required for UK company specialised in the import and export of domestic goods to and from the UK and Korea.

Applicants must have management experience, knowledge of Korean or UK business, speak and write fluent Korean, and be able to work under pressure to meet tight dead lines.

Salary £30,000 +

Send CV to Mrs K B Park by fax on 0181 296 9813

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90 Gloucester Place
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LOOKING for commission-based independent agents/reps for UK. International telecommunications provider to hospitality industry. Call backs after 15 April. Fax resumes to CNSI 0171 917 6002

PROFILES

VERY HONEST 35 year old ex dealer. Good maths, languages. Excellent [illegible]. Seeks work. Tel: 0181 8180171.

VIDEO GAME PROGRAMMERS AND 3D DESIGNERS

Aorn, a creator of Sony Arcade games, seeks a few programmers and designers willing to relocate to Osaka, Japan.
Tel: 81-6-308-3412.
Fax: 81-6-308-3584
E-mail:
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Homepage:
http://www.threeweb.ad.jp/~aorn/
contact Mima.

WORKING ABROAD

We provide you with addresses of foreign firms which look for employees in Europe, USA, Canada, Hawaii, the West Indies, Australia and the far east. Vacancies in the building, steel, metal and oil industries, gardeners, drivers, touring guides as well as personnel for hotels and restaurants, au-pair, luxury cruisers etc.

For detailed information please send an addressed envelope to:

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IT SERVICE DELIVERY. V. Snr. Post, Melbourne, Australia. Tel: 01344 872997 (Agy).

CONSULTANTS

with IT or Finance Industry experience, particularly Project Managers, Business Analysts, BPR, Proces Design and Documentation skills, required for contract work. CVs to Campion Willcocks, 80 Sycamore Rd, Amersham HP6 6ED.

TO ADVERTISE CALL: 0171 680 6806

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

FAX: 0171 481 9313

ENTERGY

To £25k
Office Manager – London
A New International Operations Base

The Entergy Corporation, one of the largest quoted public utilities companies in the USA with assets of around $23b and 12,000 employees, provides electric power and services to over 2.3m domestic retail customers.

The Entergy Power Group, a major part of the Corporation, is a developer, owner and operator providing power worldwide to wholesale and retail customers. With investments of around $1b, global activities range across the Far East, Indian Subcontinent, Europe and South America.

The company's strategic focus is to continue to expand its provision of wholesale electricity to other utilities and to market its energy expertise worldwide. As a result, a London office is to be opened this summer as a central base for European operations.

You will be one of the first appointed to this compact team and will enjoy a wide ranging work scope, covering supervision of office staff, day to day financial duties, insurance, administration, personnel, facilities, provision of clerical and secretarial back up and all other related matters.

Ideally, you have managed a start up scenario and have directly relevant experience in running a busy, international operations base. Skills in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint are particularly advantageous.

This is a ground floor opportunity to make an early and direct impact on a new area of expansion and the remuneration package will reflect the importance of this role.

Interviews are to take place in London in the near future.
In complete confidence, please write with CV as soon as possible to:
Simpson Crowden Consultants Limited, 97/99 Park Street, London W1Y 3HA.

Simpson Crowden
CONSULTANTS

TWO SENIOR PA/SECRETARIES

To form a key team for a small group of consultants. Both will carry out high level PA, secretarial and administrative work and management of office and central resources. You will be working with a group of individual, interesting, and at times demanding consultants who deal at the highest levels of the private and public sectors.

The Company

Based in attractive offices in Victoria, PJR is a small consultancy specialising in Organisation Development.

Essential Requirements

- Accurate, efficient, calm under under pressure and flexible
- Outgoing, articulate and excellent telephone manner, confident
- Experienced and competent in complex diary management
- Responsible for smooth running of the office
- Highly skilled in word processing, presentation, use of spreadsheets and graphics packages.
- Confident dealing with people at the most senior level

Desirable

- Previous consulting (or similar) experience
- Experience of latest version of AppleMac Microsoft Office

Salary £17,500 - £21,000. Non-smoker preferred. No agencies please.
Requests for application forms to PJR Limited,
29 Catherine Place, London SW1E 6DY
Fax: 0171 630 8583.
Closing date: 24 April 1996
Please do not send CVs, application letters at this stage.

DMB&B

is a leading International Communications Group, comprising Advertising, Marketing, Media Planning/Buying and PR. We are currently looking for two secretaries to work at senior levels, one in our Creative Department and the other in our International Division. Our ideal candidates for these positions should be excellent administrators with fast and accurate WP skills (Lotus Smart Suite preferable) and a sound advertising background.

If you have a cheerful lively personality, can remain calm under pressure and if you are willing to work long hours when required, we should be glad to hear from you. You will be working in a busy, friendly environment and become part of a team with a very high level of commitment and where a sense of humour is a positive advantage. Salary neg.

Applications with CV and daytime tel. no. should be addressed to: Heidi Webb,
DMB&B, Group Personnel Department,
123 Buckingham Palace,
London, SW1W 9DZ.
Tel no: 0171 592 2350 Fax no: 0171 592 1039.

Chairman of small Chartered Surveying Practice,
London W1
Seeks mature P.A. with good secretarial (audio) and accounting skills (SAGE)
Salary: £18,500-£19,000 negotiable. Usual benefits available.
Apply in writing with C.V. to:
Douglas Stevens & Company
1 Harewood Place
Hanover Square
London W1R 9HA

JOHN D WOOD & CO.

SECRETARY

RESIDENTIAL SALES WIMBLEDON VILLAGE

Good communication and organisational skills, a sense of humour and initiative plus competence in Word Perfect 6.1 are essential.

Tel: Elizabeth Loe
0181-944 7172

Belle

PA Secretary to Vice President — Uxbridge
£18,000 + benefits including 25 days hols

To assist the Senior Lawyer of Legal Services division of this international company. A full PA role awaits you. Experience should have been gained in a prominent law firm and skills to include Amipro, Lotus and Freelance.

Personnel Secretary — NW1
£17,500 - £19,500 + Benefits

Academic 'establishment' requires a good communicator with previous secretarial experience in a personnel environment but not with the ambition to pursue a career as a personnel officer! You will use MSW4W v.6 and a database software, offer excellent organisational ability and enjoy being part of a young team. Age 27+.

Team Secretary — W1
To £16,500 + benefits including 25 days hols

To assist this Project Management Team of architects and surveyors. You will enjoy using your fast audio typing skills using MSW4W v.6 and have Powerpoint 'under your belt' for intermittent use. Smart office near Harley Street.

Shorthand Secretary — WC2
C £17,500 + benefits

A charming tax specialist seeks a well-educated professional with shorthand of 90wpm and MSW4W v.6 skills to assist him. Ideally aged 25-35, you will be offered a full secretarial role and be based in a delightful location.

Team Secretary — WC2
c £15,000 + bonus scheme

International Search Consultants seek a self-assured secretary to assist a highly-motivated team. Skills will include fast typing using Windows and the ability to 'juggle' priorities! Age 20's - 30's ideal.

Temporary Secretaries also sought!
Please contact Liz Forristal or Hillary Watts to discuss any of these vacancies
or Joan O'Callaghan regarding temporary work.
Belle Recruitment Ltd, 20 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3ED
Tel: 0171 404 4655, Fax: 0171 831 9192

CASPE Consulting Ltd

Secretary/ Office Manager

circa £18,000 p.a. depending upon experience

CASPE is a leading research and specialist health service consultancy working mainly within the National Health Service. To help us provide clients with an efficient and professional service, we are looking for an experienced Office Manager with a senior secretarial background.

This is a new post and we would like to hear from you if you pride yourself on your ability to manage a team of staff, are dedicated to the provision of accurate high quality work, possess good organisational, communication and interpersonal skills and enjoy working under pressure.

Experience of standard word processing and other office-based software is essential.

For further details contact Linda Howard, Personnel Adviser, at CASPE Consulting, 76 Borough High Street, London, SE1 1LL. Tel: 0171-378-7588 (24-hr answer service). E-mail LHOWARD@caspe.co.uk.

Closing date for applications: 25 April 1996

Litigation PA
Sec to Partner
c.£20,000 pa

Experienced, well-organised, mature litigation PA required by friendly, professional firm. Excellent package for the right applicant.

Step Ahead Personnel
0171 359 0963
Fax: 0171 359 8415

SPONSORSHIP CO SECRETARY £14,000

Confident, intelligent, fun secretary with good WP skills and exc. telephone manner required for small, lively sponsorship company. Interest in music and sport. Min. 2 yrs office experience and non-smoker please.

Please send full CV to:
Bodansky Sponsorship
15A The High Street
Wimbledon Village
London SW19 5DX

INTERNATIONAL PA/BUSINESS ASSISTANT

£25,000 + Package

This international plc requires a strong and capable PA who can combine a traditional secretarial approach and skills with business awareness and project planning expertise. Supporting a dynamic and successful Senior Director, your role will involve the management of communication between international groups, using your excellent interpersonal skills and the latest technology. Your commitment and proactive approach will be rewarded by total involvement and organisational responsibility. Previous experience at Director level within a commercial or financial environment is essential: language skills an advantage. Please call us now on

Angela Mortimer
0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.
All applicants are positively welcomed.

SECRETARY

We urgently need an experienced secretary with excellent administration and computing skills keen to work in a fast-moving, demanding work environment. We are a small organisation but our business interests are worldwide and some or all of the management team are invariably abroad. Therefore, you will need to help track our operations as well as use your initiative to improve our business processes and your interpersonal skills to communicate effectively and tactfully both inside the company and with clients.
Please send your CV to Trevor Rolfe at 535 Kings Road, London SW10 OSZ.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

GERMAN Billing Prof. Mnger for SW London Co. relevant exp ess. £19K. Language Recruitment Services 0171 287 0424.

BANKING & LEGAL LA CREME

PA/ PARALEGAL

Competitive salary

A major listed telecommunications company, based in Central London, requires a PA with legal qualification to support the Director of Legal Services and a Senior Legal Advisor and to undertake some basic legal work. Knowledge of Microsoft Office and good keyboard skills are required, together with minimum of 100 wpm shorthand. Well-presented, excellent interpersonal skills with lots of initiative, you should be comfortable liasing at all levels in the organisation.

Applicants should send a Full CV to Box No 4946.

SUPER SECRETARIES

ADMIN/SECRETARY for West End PR agency. Must be super-efficient, assertive, with excellent WP skills. Immediate start. Salary £14k. Send CV to Rowena Kilmartin, Lawson Dodd, 25 Foubert's Place, London, W1V 1HE

IS THIS YOU. Over 25, smart, self-starter with good PC skills, telephone manner, and an interest in photography, able to act as PA to MD whilst managing general office and working as part of a small team in SW6. If so we could have just the job for you. Fax CV to 0181 941 5899.

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

FULHAM estate agent req a sales negotiator 25/35 with energy, drive & determination to succeed. Exp prefered. Excel salary + comm + generous car allowance. Fax your CV to Harrington Lowndes 0171 731 1101

PROPERTY Negotiator. Due to expansion Foxtons wish to appoint a top flight sales negotiator. Ideally aged 23-27. Must live in Central London and have a clean driving licence. Proven sales record but not necessarily in estate agency. Above all must be ambitious and materialistically motivated. Salary. + comm. + car. 0171 221 2000

LETTINGS & SALES NEGOTIATORS

TRAINEE Property Negotiator. Drive and determination - Qualities essential for this position. Hard work, long hours and a hectic environment. Begin on the learning curve with the most progressive agent in Central London. The successful applicant will be intelligent, have an abundance of energy, enthusiasm and a desire to become one of Central London's most successful negotiators. Ideally aged 23-26. Initial salary £12k during training + car. Must live in Central London. 0171 221 2000

PART TIME VACANCIES

LIVELY but small architectural practice seeks part time Secretary Office Manager 3 days per week pro rata £14,600. Architectural exp. pref. Immed start. CVs to Brooks/ Murray Architects to 109 Clifton Street, London. EC2A 4LD or Fax. No. 0171 739 9944.

PA/SEC p/t/flexible hours for design co. W1. Basic bk keeping reqd. Fax CV to 0171 436 3906

NON-SECRETARIAL

PARSONS GREEN REPRODUCTIONS
are looking for an energetic and adaptable person to take on a joint Administrative and Marketing/Sales role. Experience in furniture advantageous. Familiarity with Microsoft Windows essential. Excellent organisational skills required. Friendly working conditions.
Salary Range 17-20K
Telephone 0181 788 7477 for an application form and job spec.

PROFILES

DO YOU NEED ORGANISING? ... DELEGATE

Resourceful, professional female seeks temp/perm post in London area as PA/Household Organiser.
Experience includes:
Yacht management, running a country residence, co-ordinator for social and corporate entertaining.
References available.
Please Reply to Box No 4978

Chelsea Harbour

CHALLENGING ROLE FOR PA/SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Mature, well educated and experienced PA to assist Managing Director and Finance Director in sophisticated modern offices. You will set up and run the office/set up filing systems from scratch. New W.P. system. Small, young, dynamic team. Happy, relaxed atmosphere. Excellent prospects and package.
Fax CV to Mike Parsons on 0171 376 8369

MATURE SECRETARY REQUIRED.

To join small practice of Chartered Quantity Surveyors when we move to our new premises in Vauxhall in May. Applicants should have good secretarial skills, be computer literate, and have a mature, healthy and flexible approach to handling Clients and creating a good working environment.

Salary: Circa £14,000 plus Medical Insurance and 4 weeks holiday per annum.

Please write with full CV and any other relevant information to Box No 4743

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

Required for prestigious Architects Practice in Chelsea to work alongside Office Manager. Excellent WP (W4W & WP 5.1) and reception skills essential. Database experience an advantage. Salary to £15,000 pa.

Apply in writing to:
Shannon Cramer
Christopher Smallwood Architects
Chelsea Reach, 79-89 Lots Road
LONDON SW10 ORN

TEMPORARY SEC/PA

For four weeks in May required for Knightsbridge Letting Specialist. WP5.1/Windows. Responsible and enthusiastic. Salary Neg.

Please ring
0171 581 5877

MASKELLS ESTATE AGENTS

Part Time Experienced Secretary wanted by Chelsea Estate Agents. Words for Windows and shorthand preferred. Hours 10-4 (flexible)
Contact: 0171 581 2216.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

PARIS - GR Interim temporary services has many temporary and permanent positions in Paris for bilingual secretaries. Fluent French essential, good salaries - ff 11,000 - ff 15,000 per month. When in Paris come in and see us. 12 Rue de la Paix, 75002 Paris Tel: 00 331 (42611616).

FINANCIAL APPOINTMENTS

Corporate Manager – Finance

Anglia & Oxford Regional Office – Milton Keynes

£38,000 to £59,700

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Anglia and Oxford Regional Office's Provider Unit, a division of the NHS Executive, is responsible for monitoring the performance of 46 Trusts within its geographical boundaries, managing the capital allocation and generally the lead on Providing.

The Provider Unit is a team of 12, in which the Corporate Manager (Finance) is the internal lead on financial matters as well as working directly with around 20 of the Trusts on all matters including Business Planning, Business Cases and Financial Monitoring as well as national priorities like Patients Charter and the Private Finance Initiative.

You will have direct responsibility for managing the Regional Capital Programme of some £150 million per year, liaising with colleagues in Trusts, the NHS Executive Headquarters and the Treasury. Provider Unit objectives are achieved through influencing and persuading rather than direct managerial control, so the role requires exceptional interpersonal and communication skills as well as a demonstrably high level of competence. It is particularly important that you are able to work as part of a flexible, but very committed team.

To ensure a high level of credibility, you will have extensive experience at a senior level within an organisation. A CCAB qualification is essential as is willingness and availability to undertake extensive travelling.

On 1st April 1996 the Regional Office transferred to the Civil Service, as part of the NHS Executive. Depending on experience, the successful candidate may be appointed on an indefinite contract immediately or a fixed term contract of three years with the possibility of an indefinite contract at a later date. Secondment terms can also be arranged if appropriate for the new postholder. Relocation assistance may be available.

For more details and an application form (to be returned by 3rd May 1996), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (answerphone), or fax 01256 846374/ 846660. Please quote reference B2894.

As an equal opportunity employer the Department of Health welcomes applications regardless of gender, race, disability or sexuality.

NHS Executive Headquarters

RAS

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Salary around £61,000 pa

The Director of Finance supervises the Board's finances, provides financial advice to the Board and its officers, designs, implements and supervises systems of financial control and maintains the Board's accounts.

Greater Glasgow is the largest of the Scottish Health Boards. In the year ended 31st March 1995 the Board purchased hospital and community health care at a cost of £535M and spent £167M on family health services.

This is a key and challenging position. You will be a qualified accountant with experience of working to this scale and complexity.

The salary range (under review) currently rises to £67,799 pa and you will have access to the Board's pay and performance scheme. Other conditions will be commensurate with a post of this seniority.

Applications must be made on the standard application form which along with further particulars can be obtained from the Director of Personnel, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 112 Ingram Street, Glasgow G1 1ET (Tel: 0141 201 4611).

Closing date: 29th April 1996

Working Towards Equal Opportunities In Employment

GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD

BACARDI-MARTINI LIMITED

Commercial Accountant

Young A.C.M.A

Southampton — c£25,000 plus benefits

- *Bacardi-Martini Limited is the U.K. operating company of the world-wide Bacardi Group whose brands are internationally renowned. Based in Southampton, this highly successful company has a substantial turnover with activities spanning the full range of marketing, sales, manufacturing and distribution.*
- *Reporting to the Financial Controller, the role demands high quality, pragmatic support to be given to sales and marketing management, particularly in areas of pricing, product costings, competitor and business analysis.*
- *This appointment represents an excellent career development move for candidates, aged around 25 with proven career success to date, who are graduate quality and recently qualified or soon to qualify as management accountants. This position provides the opportunity to gain significant hands-on commercial accounting experience in this progressive international group. The company culture will appeal to individuals of the highest calibre.*
- *The client is looking for an individual with obvious potential to grow significantly within the Finance function and is therefore offering an excellent range of benefits including help with relocation if appropriate. Interviews will be held locally.*

Please forward in absolute confidence a full curriculum vitae to AF Advertising Limited, Bowcliffe Court, Bowcliffe Hall, Bramham, Leeds LS23 6LW Tel: 01937 841402. Fax: 01937 841403.

afa

EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITY
FINANCIAL CONTROLLER

Flanagan & Co is Britain's biggest home delivery supermarket, working closely with a major plc.

This rapidly expanding company, is looking for a Chartered Accountant of the highest calibre to head the finance team.

Working closely with the company's joint Chief Executives, the successful candidate will have responsibility for all financial aspects of the business, including financial planning and analysis, management reporting and full budgetary control.

Successful applicants will be 30-35 yrs, degree educated, have the highest qualifications, training with one of the top five, a sound business acumen, and at least five years commercial experience with a leaning towards retail.

Excellent career and developmental prospects await the person who has the expertise, drive and commitment necessary to take up the challenge of this exciting opportunity.

Please send C.V. and details of current salary to:
Philippa Clarke (Personnel Manager)
Supermarket Direct, Flanagan House 118-120 Garratt Lane,
London SW18 4DJ. Or fax: 0181 877 8035.

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The Physiological Society, a well established and successful charity, requires a Financial Assistant to the Honorary Treasurer who will be based in Central London.

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[illegible]

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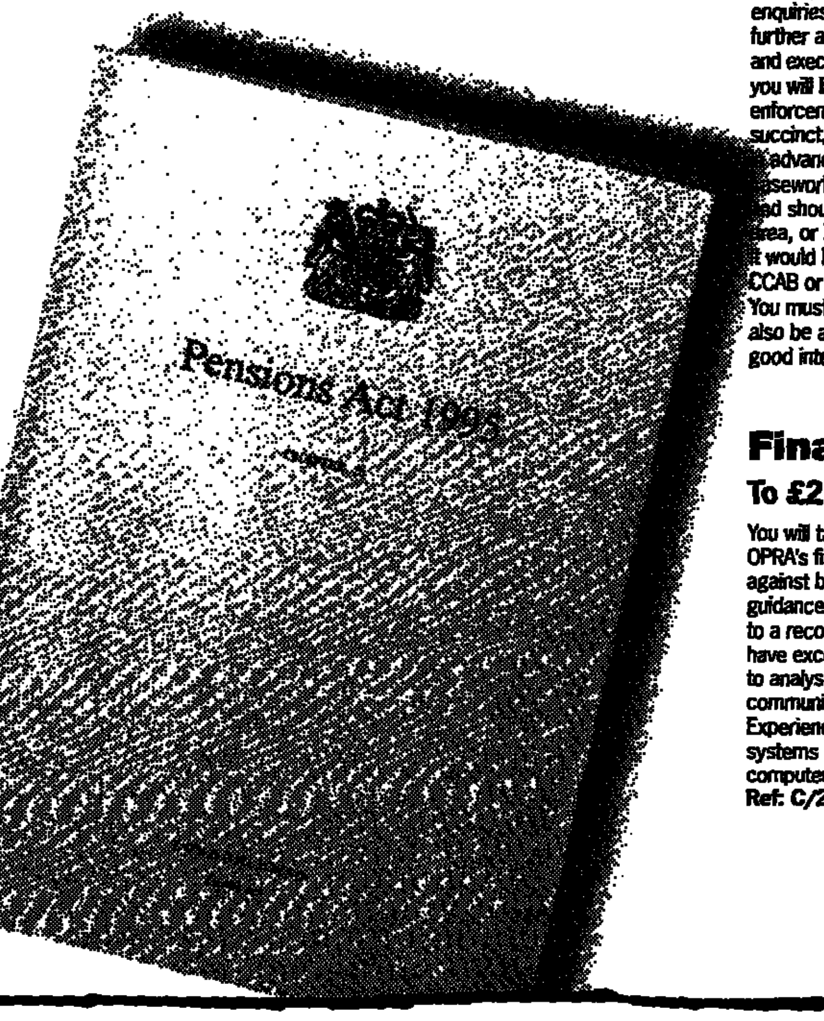

BRIGHTON

The Occupational Pensions Regulatory Authority (OPRA) is a new statutory body set up under the Pensions Act 1995 to regulate occupational pension schemes.
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In advance of April 1997, you will be involved in establishing casework procedures. Relevant experience will be essential and should ideally have been gained in a similar investigative area, or in the management or audit of pension schemes. It would be advantageous to have an appropriate degree, CCAB or PMI qualification.
You must be able to work well as a member of a team but also be able to work independently. You must also possess good inter-personal skills. **Ref: C/2861.**

Finance Manager

To £25,000

You will take responsibility for developing and maintaining OPRA's financial/accounting systems, monitor expenditure against budgets and forecasts and provide advice and guidance on financial matters to budget-holders. In addition to a recognised accounting or financial qualification, you will have excellent planning and organisational skills, the ability to analyse technical information and experience of communicating that information to non-specialists. Experience of either commercial or government accounting systems will be essential, along with knowledge of computerised accounting systems and spreadsheets. **Ref: C/2883.**

Secretary To The Board

To £25,000

Your duties will include the arrangement of meetings and public hearings, the control of budgets and expenses related to these events, as well as agenda-setting and minute-taking. You will also be involved in project work, the collection and collation of information and the drafting of speeches.
Ideally possessing a relevant degree or professional qualification, you will need high-level experience of servicing a Board or Committee within either the Public or Private Sector. Ability to use word processing and spreadsheet PC packages and some knowledge of occupational pensions would be a bonus. **Ref: C/2882.**

IT Services Manager

To £25,000

This is an ideal role for someone with experience of small systems management. You'll be responsible for OPRA's IT and related services including the procurement of hardware and software, the supply of in-house 'help desk' support and the management of staff and contractors/suppliers.
Some experience of the procurement of goods and services will be essential, along with a relatively high degree of computer literacy, especially in Microsoft Office Professional 4.3 and Novell Netware 4.1. You will need to be approachable and adaptable and willing to take a 'hands on' approach. **Ref: C/2884.**

Personnel Manager

To £25,000

You will be responsible for providing a total personnel service to around 150 staff. Your focus will obviously be on recruitment, the development of policies and procedures, and staff resource planning and development but we shall also expect you to help create our organisational culture and working style, as well as develop internal communications and remuneration strategies.
Your background will be generalist, although you'll need a sound knowledge of employment law and experience of recruitment using a range of techniques including testing and assessment centres. IPD trained, you will be creative, articulate and enthusiastic. **Ref: C/2881.**

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 2nd May 1996), write to **Recruitment & Assessment Services,** Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (24 hours), or fax 01256 846478. Please quote appropriate reference number.

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DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES c. £35,000 p.a.

Responsible for all aspects of our Human Resources, you will ensure that the organisation has effective personnel and training/staff development functions that meet both its current and future needs and which promote established "best practice". The post will also encompass the development and implementation of equal opportunities, quality assurance and communication strategies.

This is a demanding post requiring at least 5 years' senior level experience and membership of the IPD. You will have experience of conducting Union negotiations and will possess exceptional communication and staff motivational skills. Previous experience of developing and implementing Policy and Procedural structures is essential, as is a knowledge of managing computerised personnel systems. **Ref: 96/41.**

For an application form and further details on either post, please telephone: 0171 602 9773 (24 hour answering service) quoting the appropriate reference number. Or write to: The Richmond Fellowship, 8 Addison Road, London, W14 8DL. Closing date for both posts: 30th April 1996.

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The Police Authority for Northern Ireland invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced serving police officers of at least Superintendent level for appointment (2 positions) as

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The appointment of a successful candidate will require the approval of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Application forms and other information, which may be requested by telephone, can be obtained from: -The Secretary and Chief Executive, Police Authority for Northern Ireland, 6th Floor, River House, 48 High Street, Belfast BT1 2DR, Telephone: Belfast (01232) 230111, Exts 20213/4/5

(Closing date: 3 May 1996)

The shortlisting of candidates for interview will be held during week commencing 3 June 1996. The interviews will take place during week commencing 1 July 1996.

THE POLICE AUTHORITY IS COMMITTED TO APPOINTING STAFF STRICTLY ON THE BASIS OF MERIT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY, THE AUTHORITY WOULD PARTICULARLY WELCOME APPLICATIONS FROM WOMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY.

Godolphin team in race against time

By Julian Muscat

AFTER the frenzied activity on Newmarket Heath yesterday, the classic countdown continues on pastures 3,500 miles distant this morning when Godolphin's best three-year-olds are tested against the clock in Dubai.

Mark Of Esteem and Bint Shadayid, prime candidates for the 2,000 and 1,000 Guineas respectively, head a team of horses to be vigorously galloped on the training track adjacent to Godolphin's Al Quoz stables. The times they post will largely determine the standard of race they will contest on their return to Britain later this month.

With the string set to arrive within days of the Newmarket classics, these private trials equate to a series of strenuous racecourse gallops for Godolphin's lightly-raced string. Lanfranco Dettori, who rode work in Newmarket yesterday, immediately left for Dubai to join a quartet of work riders, completed by Richard Hills, Bryn Crossley and John Williams. The latter two are now indentured to Godolphin.

"It is important we have riders who are familiar with the track here at Al Quoz," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said yesterday. "It is very different to riding work in a straight line on grass. The times of the gallops are crucial to our training programme and experienced riders are instrumental if we are to interpret them accurately."

Godolphin's glittering successes in Britain last season — their runners landed three classics and finished third and fourth in the other two — alerted an unsuspecting public to the stable's potential. Both Mark Of Esteem and Bint Shadayid were well supported for the classics last month when it emerged they had pleased connections in their preparatory work.

Most of this morning's activity will see teams of four horses galloping around one bend over seven furlongs on dirt. Starting from stalls, each group will be led by a proven older horse which is capable of setting specific fractions. At strict weight-for-age terms, it will require a three-year-old of above-average ability to collar the lead horse.

The desert stable, at present 85-strong, will be culled to half that number for Godolphin's annual trip to its base at Moulton Paddocks in Newmarket. "We are already pretty clear in our minds which horses will be on that plane," Crisford said. "Everything is on schedule.

"We know exactly what each horse has been doing, every day, going back months," he continued. "The work will test a few of them for speed and some may not make it. Much of the exercise centres around Mark Of Esteem, who has been doing well. But he must work well to book his place in the 2,000 Guineas."

Among the horses ridden by Dettori at Newmarket yesterday was Maid For The Hills. Trained by David Loder, Maid For The Hills is expected to test the water in the Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmarket on Tuesday. Her showing will give Loder a valuable pointer.

Blue Duster, second favourite for the 1,000 Guineas behind Bosra Sham, also hails from the Loder stable. She is projected to contest the fillies' classic without a prep race. Dance Sequence, thrice behind Blue Duster in as many encounters last season, was another in action yesterday. She could clash with Maid For The Hills on Tuesday.

In other workouts yesterday, Bosra Sham, trained by Henry Cecil, attracted favourable comment after finishing her gallop strongly. Pat Eddery was on hand to partner Bright Water, a full-brother to Tenby. Other Cecil Derby candidates sighted on the Heath were Dushyantor and Silver Dome.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

The grey Bint Shadayid, who won at Goodwood last August, is among the classic prospects taking part in time trials in Dubai today

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TARA RAMBLER
(3.40 Cheltenham)
Next best: Chicodari
(4.50 Cheltenham)

Flying Gunner has valuable prize in sights

CHELTENHAM
CHANNEL 4

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.30: Not a race to get involved with from a betting point of view, with doubts about all four runners. Mole Board was pulled up in the Stayers' Hurdle here last month and, at 14, is surely past his prime. Top-class chaser Bradbury Star has a tremendous record over fences here, but has not been seen since struggling into second behind Grange Brake at Chepstow in December and may need the run, while Hops And Pops needs to improve.

That leaves **Boro Eight** to land the spoils. He has not been at his best this season, but was far from disgraced when fourth to Urubande at Aintree and a reproduction of that form should suffice.

3.05: Viking Flagship, who returned to his best when trouncing Sound Man at Aintree, should have little trouble here. Travado, 6¼ lengths beind Viking Flagship when the pair were second and fourth in the Champion Chase here, makes more appeal than Gales Cavalier, who is unlikely to stay.

3.40: Strong Promise will be all the rage here after failing by a neck to catch Urubande at Aintree, but the handicapper has taken no chances with him and he looks as one to oppose. The progressive Tara Rambler, an easy winner at Doncaster, and Uncle Keeny, who possibly failed to stay three miles when third to Top Spin at Aintree, both have claims. However, preference is for **Flying Gunner**, who was cruising when falling three out at Newbury last month and may have been let in lightly on his handicap debut.

4.15: General Rusty may have just needed the run, his first for five months, when fourth at Uttoxeter recently. Nonetheless, he is handicapped up to his best and may find a couple too good here. Big Ben Dun overcame an absence of nearly three years when winning at Folkestone, but this is a much stronger contest.

Proud Sun has had problems with his jumping in hunter chases this season, but proved his ability to complete the course here when fourth in the Foxhunter's at the Festival, and is potentially well handicapped. With Grand National-winning jockey Mick Fitzgerald taking over the reins today, he is well worth an interest.

ROBERT WRIGHT

'Flapping' owners banned for ten years

OWNERS Patricia Hamilton and Jim McDonald were yesterday each warned off for ten years by the Jockey Club after a "flapping" inquiry.

They were declared disqualified persons for their involvement with Pretty Average, a winner last year at Thirsk, who was found to have run in unlicensed races in Scotland under the name of Short'N' Sweet.

An expected lengthy inquiry by the disciplinary commitee into the case was in fact concluded in under two hours after McDonald and Hamilton both acknowledged that they were in breach of the rules.

Hamilton admitted to a breach of Rule 220 (viii) which covers misleading racecourse stewards, while McDonald admitted to a breach of rules covering an involvement with flapping horses, including the running of another flapper — Hotspur — under Rules by the name of Bluefaulds in 1995.

Pretty Average was a well-backed 20-1 winner of the Rocom Selling Handicap on July 29 last year for trainer Basil Richmond, who was cleared of any breach of the rules prior to the inquiry.

An involvement with flappers usually carries a penalty of disqualification from ownership for 12 months. But Jockey Club director of public affairs, David Pipe, said: "The stewards of the disciplinary committee viewed this as an extremely serious offence as the public, bookmakers, the Jockey Club and the handicapper had all been deliberately deceived for financial gain."

Both horses involved in the case had been entered to run in flapping races this weekend. This is thought to have brought proceedings to a hastier conclusion. Hamilton had previously denied that the mare had been flapping. The couple declined to comment after the hearing.

Tyrone Williams had a four-day ban for careless riding extended by a day after an unsuccessful appeal. The jockey incurred the suspension riding Backview for trainer Bernard Llewellyn at Wolverhampton on April 2 — the horse finished first in the Thorpe Vernon Handicap but was placed third.

The Jockey Club disciplinary committee rejected Llewellyn's appeal against the demotion, upgraded the charge against Williams from careless to irresponsible riding and added a fifth day to the jockey's ban, which starts today.

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

1.55 Mr President
2.30 Mole Board
3.05 Viking Flagship
3.40 Tara Rambler
4.15 General Rusty
4.50 Chicodari

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

1.55 D J EQUINE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,241: 2m 5f) (9 runners)

1	0-01152	FIVE TO SEVEN 12 (G,S) (The Five to Seven Partnership) C Thornton 7-11-10	P Carberry	93
2	0-4300	WOODFORD GALE 42 (Lady Lloyd Webber) N Henderson 6-11-8	M A Fitzgerald	90
3	U31402	CERTAIN ANGLE 14 (F,G,S) (The Plyform Syndicate) P Hobbs 7-11-5	R Dunwoody	93
4	3-6F311	MR PRESIDENT 37 (G,S) (Mrs B Mead) C Brooks 7-11-2	G Bradley	90
5	11132U	POLDEN PRIDE 142 (C,F) (D Lockyer/C Parry/G Balding) G Balding 8-11-1	A P McCoy	92
6	5226-P1	RHOSSILI BAY 38 (G) (Mrs M Williams) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-0	P Niven	98
7	53F3F3	FLAPJACK LAD 34 (S) (H Shouler) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0	C Llewellyn	97
8	P8F423	MAREMMA GALE 8 (B) (R Scorgie) N Mitchell 8-10-0	K Gaule (3)	●
9	P0-PP2	INVER CLOUD 27 (T Rooth) C Weedon 7-10-0	G Hogan (3)	–

Long handicap: Flapjack Lad 9-13, Maremma Gale 9-8, Inver Cloud 8-6

BETTING: 9-4 Mr President, 3-1 Rhossili Bay, 9-2 Five To Seven, 6-1 Polden Pride, 8-1 Maremma Gale, Certain Angle 12-1 Flapjack Lad, 14-1 others.

1995: SUPER MALT 7-10-0 B Powell (12-1) B Meehan 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

FIVE TO SEVEN 2l 2nd of 11 to Rocket Run in amateur riders' handicap chase at Aintree (3m 4f, good) CERTAIN ANGLE 9l 2nd of 6 to Count Melody in handicap chase at Taunton (3m, soft) MR PRESIDENT beat Coolree 5l in 5-runner novices' handicap chase at Newbury (2m 4f, good to soft)
POLDEN PRIDE 7l 2nd of 11 to Sharp Performer in novices' handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good) penultimate start. RHOSSILI BAY beat General Command short-head in 5-runner novices' handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good). FLAPJACK LAD 12l 3rd of 6 to Smiling Chief in novices' handicap chase at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: MR PRESIDENT

2.30 MITIE GROUP HURDLE

C4

(£5,069: 2m 4f) (4 runners)

1	024-304	BORO EIGHT 12 (G,S) (Berson/Murphy/Allen) Miss V Williams 10-11-12	R Johnson	●
2	0-4F12P	MOLE BOARD 28 (CD,F,G,S) (W Sturt) J Old 14-11-12	M A Fitzgerald	93
3	046R0U	HOPS AND POPS 3 (D,F,G,S) (The Happy Band) R Alner 9-11-3	A P McCoy	88
4	152F-02	BRADBURY STAR 131 (CD,F,G,S) (J Campbell) J Gifford 11-11-0	P Hide	–

BETTING: 4-5 Mole Board, 7-4 Boro Eight, 11-2 Bradbury Star, 10-1 Hops And Pops.

1995: ALLEGATION 5-11-8 R Dunwoody (7-2) M Pipe 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

BORO EIGHT neck and 8l 4th of 8 to Urubande in grade I Martell Aintree Hurdle (2m 4f, good). MOLE BOARD 4l 2nd of 6 to See Enough in grade II Rendlesham Hurdle at Kempton (3m 110yd, soft) penultimate start.
HOPS AND POPS best seasonal effort 13½l 4th of 14 to Tralogiol in grade III Tote Bookmakers Sandown Handicap Hurdle (2m 6f, good to firm). BRADBURY STAR tailed off 2nd of 3 to Grange Brake in the grade II Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow (3m, good to soft).
Selection: BORO EIGHT

3.05 FAUCETS FOR MIRA RADA SHOWERS SILVER TROPHY CHASE

C4

(Grade II: £20,286: 2m 5f) (3 runners)

1	113224	TRAVADO 29 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs P Sherwood) N Henderson 10-11-7	M A Fitzgerald	90
2	431121	VIKING FLAGSHIP 13 (C,F,G,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 9-11-7	A P McCoy	●
3	2P-22P1	GALES CAVALIER 22 (G,S) (Starlight Racing) D Gandolfo 8-11-4	M Dwyer	81

BETTING: 4-11 Viking Flagship, 5-2 Travado, 10-1 Gales Cavalier

1995: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

TRAVADO 7l 2nd of 4 to Dublin Flyer in Wincanton chase (2m 5f, good to soft) with VIKING FLAGSHIP 8l 3rd. VIKING FLAGSHIP beat Sound Man 7l in 4-runner Mumm Melling Chase at Aintree (2m 4f, good). Previously 5l 2nd of 7 to Klairon Davis in Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) with TRAVADO 6¼l 4th. GALES CAVALIER beat Super Tactics 4l in Exeter handicap chase (2m 2f, good to soft).
Selection: VIKING FLAGSHIP

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 .... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

3.40 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

C4

(Final: grade III: £16,110: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

1	132062	STRONG PROMISE 12 (F,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-12-0	K Gaule (3)	●
2	132313	UNCLE KEENY 14 (D,G,S) (R Seed) J J O'Neill 6-10-8	M Dwyer	84
3	04-0611	TARA RAMBLER 38 (D,F,G) (J Hanson) Miss S Hall 7-10-4	P Carberry	83
4	54210	HOODED HAWK 13 (D,G) (C Hamer) N Henderson 5-10-3	M A Fitzgerald	80
5	6214	AMBLESIDE 33 (S) (B Yin) Mrs S Williams 5-10-1	R Dunwoody	82
6	632F	FLYING GUNNER 20 (R Maryan Green) D Nicholson 5-10-0	W Marston	80
7	131B21	JIMMY'S CROSS 16 (D,F,G) (Leslie Garrett Racing) G Balding 6-10-0	A P McCoy	80
8	1-21550	EXTERIOR PROFILES 57 (BF,F,G) (Exterior Profiles) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-0	C Maude	82
9	212014	OLD HABITS 23 (D,F) (R Thomson) J Eyre 7-10-0	B Storey	80
10	0-6311P	MISS OPTIMIST 19 (D,BF,F,S) (Plough Partnership) D Nicholson 6-10-0	R Johnson (3)	80

Long handicap: Flying Gunner 9-13, Jimmy's Cross 9-12, Exterior Profiles 9-11, Old Habits 9-10, Miss Optimist 9-10

BETTING: 11-4 Strong Promise, 9-2 Tara Rambler, 6-1 Miss Optimist, Jimmy's Cross, Uncle Keeny, 7-1 Ambleside, 12-1 Exterior Profiles, 14-1 Hooded Hawk, Old Habits, 16-1 Flying Gunner

1995: BEAR CLAW 6-11-8 J Osborne (3-1 fav) O Sherwood 25 ran

FORM FOCUS

STRONG PROMISE neck 2nd of 8 to Urubande in grade I Martell Aintree Hurdle (2m 4f, good). UNCLE KEENY neck and 2½l 3rd of 19 to Top Spin in handicap hurdle at Aintree (3m 110yd, good). TARA RAMBLER beat Steel Moss 3l in 19-runner novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good). AMBLESIDE about 4¼l 4th of 11 to Divertimiento in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft). JIMMY'S CROSS beat Tim neck in 12-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). MISS OPTIMIST beat Henrietta Howard 2½l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: STRONG PROMISE

4.15 TIMEFORM GOLDEN MILLER HANDICAP CHASE

C4

(£4,856: 3m 2f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	6P-3P5P	MERE CLASS 19 (C,D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Elsbury) C Brooks 10-11-10	G Bradley	●
2	1-21114	GENERAL RUSTY 26 (D,BF,F,G) (M Wan) C Mann 8-11-9	R Dunwoody	93
3	01611F	IFFEEE 14 (F,G,S) (T Morris) P Bowen 9-11-5	R Johnson (3)	98
4	111-F4F	PROUD SUN 8 (BF,F,G,S) (S Pike) S Pike 8-11-2	M A Fitzgerald	91
5	P3-11FU	BANKROLL 142 (F,G) (I Steers) P Hobbs 9-10-9	A P McCoy	93
6	40-1321	LE MEILLE 38 (C,D,F,G) (N Mitchell) A Jarvis 7-10-6	A Larnach (3)	90
7	-3112/1	BIG BEN DUN 27 (D,F,G,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 10-10-0	D Gallagher	93

Long handicap: Big Ben Dun 9-11.

BETTING: 9-4 General Rusty, 3-1 Le Meille, 4-1 Big Ben Dun, 6-1 Bankroll, Mere Class, 7-1 Proud Sun, 8-1 Iffeee.

1995: HILL TRIX 9-11-0 A Tory (5-1) K Bishop 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

GENERAL RUSTY about 8½l 4th of 5 to Even Blue in novices' handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good). IFFEEE beat Pims Gunner 6l in 6-runner handicap chase at Sedgefield (3m 4f, good) penultimate start. PROUD SUN 13l 4th of 17 to Elegant Lord in hunter chase at Cheltenham (3m 2f 110yd, good). BANKROLL best effort beat Tagmoun Chaufour 25l in 7-runner conditional jockeys' handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to firm). LE MEILLE beat Young Dubliner 20l in 8-runner novice chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good). BIG BEN DUN BEAT Equity Player 1¼l in 6-runner handicap chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, good to firm)
Selection: GENERAL RUSTY

4.50 STOKE ORCHARD JUVENILE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(4-Y-O: £5,199: 2m 4f) (5 runners)

1	21P011	CHICODARI 10 (B,G,G,S) (Exors of late Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 12-0	R Johnson (3)	●
2	221522	DALLY BOY 16F (S) (T Bennett) T Easterby 11-1	L Wyer	92
3	4015	UNITED FRONT 52 (BF,S) (T Benstord) B Sampson 10-7	D Gallagher	90
4	40015	FORESTAL 33 (S) (S Gollings) S Griffiths 10-5	M A Fitzgerald	94
5	0082	RAMSDENS 19 (J Duggan) N Twiston-Davies 10-0	C Llewellyn	88

BETTING: 6-4 Chicodari, 3-1 Dally Boy, 9-2 Ramsdens, 7-1 United Front, 8-1 Forestal

1995: MELNIK 10-13 M Perrett (4-1) G Harwood 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHICODARI beat Deymiar 7l in 4-runner juvenile hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good) DALLY BOY 3½l 2nd of 17 to Edelweis Du Moulin in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, soft). UNITED FRONT best Ambleside 4l in 15-runner maiden hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, heavy) penultimate start. FORESTAL beat Northern Singer 5l in 14-runner novices' handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 1f, heavy) penultimate start. RAMSDENS 20l 2nd of 12 to Dream Ride in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, heavy).
Selection: CHICODARI (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholson	36	190	18.9	A P McCoy	10	51	19.6
J Gifford	20	132	15.21	R Dunwoody	44	227	19.4
C Brooks	7	48	14.6	W Marston	14	97	14.4
N Twiston-Davies	32	220	14.5	M Dwyer	8	70	11.4
G Balding	16	123	13.0	C Llewellyn	13	124	10.5
N Henderson	16	129	12.4	P Hide	6	57	10.5

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ripon

Going: good

2.10 (5f) 1, Proud Native (J Tate, 8-1); 2, Double Park (3-1); 3, The Gay Fox (10-1). Prince Of Parkes 13-8 fav 8 ran. 1½l, 1½l. A Jarvis. Tote: £16.90; £4.00, £1.50, £1.90. DF: £32.30. CSF: £32.32.

2.40 (1m 4f 60yd) 1, Comtec's Legend (L Charnock, 7-1); 2, Watch Me Go (8-1); 3, Dots Dee (20-1); 4, Bold Pursuit (3-1 fav). 18 ran. Nk, sh hd. J Bottomley. Tote: £10.00; £2.80, £2.10, £4.60, £1.80. DF: £37.10. Trio: £337.30. CSF: £66.84. Tricast: £1,037.84.

3.10 (6f) 1, Super Benz (R Lappin, 6-1 jt-fav); 2, To The Roof (6-1 jt-fav); 3, Highborn (25-1); 4, Tiler (12-1). 24 ran. 3l, ¾l. J Eyre. Tote: £7.20; £2.10, £2.10, £5.40, £3.30. DF: £22.10. Trio: £776.60. CSF: £44.71. Tricast: £845.33.

3.40 (1m 1f) 1, Santillana (G Hind, 4-6 fav); 2, Double Diamond (8-1); 3, Coyote Bluff (20-1). 4 ran. Nk, 7l. J Gosden. Tote: £1.60. DF: £2.80. CSF: £5.72.

4.10 (1m 4f 60yd) 1, Pip's Dream (W Carson, 13-8 fav); 2, Outstayed Welcome (6-1); 3, Keep Battling (10-1). 11 ran. NR: Express Gift. 1l, 7l. M Ryan. Tote: £2.60; £1.60, £1.70, £1.60. DF: £5.30. Trio: £18.10. CSF: £11.51. Tricast: £89.15.

4.40 (1m) 1, Polinesso (M Hills, 2-1); 2, Lost Lagoon (10-11 fav); 3, Tiaal (100-1). 16 ran. 2½l, ¾l. B Hills. Tote: £3.40; £1.20, £1.10, £7.30. DF: £2.10. Trio: £36.20. CSF: £4.14.

5.10 (1m 2f) 1, Muhtadi (W Carson, 3-1 fav); 2, Nose No Bounds (9-2); 3, Phantom Haze (6-1). 15 ran. Sh hd, 2½l. J Dunlop. Tote: £2.40; £1.80, £2.00, £1.80. DF: £5.50. Trio: £11.80. CSF: £18.55. Tricast: £78.64.

Jackpot: £27,878.50 (0.09 winning tickets. Pool of £35,731.89 carried forward to Hamilton Park today).
Placepot: £22.40. Quadpot: £6.40.

Exeter

Going: good to firm

2.20 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Lessons Lass (Mr J Culloty, 9-4); 2, Pleasant Surprise (13-8 fav); 3, Swivel (7-4). 4 ran. 7l, 1l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £3.50. DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.90.

2.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, My Main Man (A P McCoy, 5-1); 2, Master Ryon (14-1); 3, Buzz O'The Crowd (50-1). Sounds Strong 4-6 fav. 9 ran. 22l, 18l. Mrs S Messer-Bennetts. Tote: £4.60; £1.10, £2.60, £6.30. DF: £43.00. Trio: £174.60. CSF: £56.22.

3.20 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Ground Nut (B Powell, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Rusty Reel (8-1); 3, Sabaki River (20-1). Keep Me In Mind 7-2 jt-fav. 8 ran. 3l, 26l. R Buckler. Tote: £3.60; £1.40, £2.50, £3.10. DF: £22.50. CSF: £26.18. Tricast: £359.20.

3.50 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, General Salute (A P McCoy, 16-1); 2, Hardy Weather (4-1); 3, Stone Bramble (25-1). Best Of Friends 4-6 fav. 15 ran. 1l, 18l. G Balding. Tote: £16.50; £3.70, £1.40, £7.10. DF: £25.30. Trio: £334.90. CSF: £79.03. Sands Point finished second but after a stewards' inquiry was disqualified

4.20 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Conti D'Estruval (A P McCoy, 10-11 fav); 2, Wise Approach (11-1); 3, Seven Of Diamonds (11-2). 8 ran. 4l, 3½l. G Balding. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £2.00, £1.90. DF: £12.40. CSF: £12.07. Tricast: £38.70.

4.50 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Sheep Stealer (Chris Webb, 11-4 fav; Private Handicapper's top rating); 2, Polly Leach (5-1); 3, Chris's Glen (6-1). 9 ran. 11l, 6l. R Peacock. Tote: £2.60; £1.10, £2.90, £2.40. DF: £12.00. Trio: £12.80. CSF: £17.22. Tricast: £72.77.
Placepot: £481.60. Quadpot: £29.00.

Worcester

Going: good (chase course); good to firm (hurdles)

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, Out Ranking (J Lower, 4-1 fav); 2, Boltrose (20-1); 3, Stately Home (6-1). 23 ran. 2l, 8l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £4.00, £2.60. DF: £190.30. Trio: not won. CSF: £78.07. Bought in 4,000gns.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, Youbetterbelieveit (G Bradley, 7-2); 2, Joshua's Vision (50-1); 3, Drakestone (33-1). The Captain's Wish 3-1 fav. 20 ran. NR: Flippance. 12l, nk. C Brooks. Tote: £4.60; £1.50, £7.60, £6.10. DF: £103.70. CSF: £150.48. The Captain's Wish finished third but after a stewards' inquiry was placed fourth

3.00 (2m 7f ch) 1, Super Gossip (M A Fitzgerald, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Fambridge (6-1); 3, Sound Forecast (20-1). Suvla Bay 4-1 jt-fav. 12 ran. 2l, 3l. P Hedger. Tote: £3.70; £1.40, £1.80, £4.50. DF: £7.50. Trio: £121.50. CSF: £27.95.

3.30 (3m hdle) 1, Uluru (J R Kavanagh, 8-1); 2, Royal Piper (14-1); 3, Special Account (14-1). Keep It Zipped 11-4 fav. 15 ran. 1l, 10l. C Nash. Tote: £7.80; £2.40, £5.80, £3.20. DF: £56.50. Trio: £218.10. CSF: £114.47. Tricast: £1,456.52.

4.00 (2m 2f hdle) 1, Society Guest (Mr J Rees, 9-4 fav); 2, Zamirah (6-1); 3, Emerald Ruler (8-1). 12 ran. 1¾l, 1¼l. A Turnell. Tote: £3.30; £1.90, £2.10, £2.00. DF: £5.10. Trio: £50.50. CSF: £14.65. Tricast: £80.75.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Zambezi Spirit (D Byrne, 14-1); 2, The Mine Captain (11-2); 3, Oscail An Doras (8-1); 4, Poppea (4-1 fav). 18 ran. 3½l, 5l. Mrs M Jones. Tote: £12.00; £3.10, £2.10, £2.50, £1.80. DF: £51.80. Trio: £211.10. CSF: £90.75. Tricast: £634.60.

5.00 (2m flat) 1, Dawn Leader (J A McCarthy, 5-1); 2, A-B-Cee (12-1); 3, Colonel Blazer (9-2). Le Baron 4-1 fav. 21 ran. NR: Calling The Tune. 4l, 1¾l. O Sherwood. Tote: £6.60; £3.20, £4.50, £2.10. DF: £69.00. Trio: £95.60. CSF: £64.44.

5.30 (2m flat) 1, Listening Conductor (M A Fitzgerald, 9-4 fav); 2, Come On Penny (16-1); 3, Carry The Card (11-1). 22 ran. 5l, 2l. N Henderson. Tote: £3.30; £2.00, £8.40, £2.90. DF: £37.70. Trio: £267.60. CSF: £42.45.
Placepot: £808.10. Quadpot: £26.10.

HAMILTON PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Rambo Waltzer. 2.55 Get Tough. 3.30 Sue Me. 4.05 I'm Still Here. 4.40 Mentalasanythin. 5.15 Cutthroat Kid.

Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 **MY GALLERY.**

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH BEST

2.20 CALDER APPRENTICES HANDICAP

(£2,790: 1m 65yd) (12 runners)

101	(10)	2161	MAPLE BAY 9 (D,G) A Bailey 7-9-13 (5ex)	Angela Gallimore (3)	98
102	(5)	0000	TALENTED TING 8 (V,CD,F,G) P Haslam 7-9-10	Carol Davison (3)	91
103	(6)	-006	MASTER OFTHE HOUSE 3 (D,F,G,S) M Hammond 10-9-5	D Hayden (5)	90
104	(12)	000-	HEY UP DOLLY 44J (G) J J O'Neill 4-9-4	Oliver Casey	98
105	(7)	6162	RAMBO WALTZER 12 (D,G) D Nicholls 4-9-1	Jo Hunnam	●
106	(1)	000-	LANCASHIRE LIFE 202 (D,G) E Alston 5-8-8	R Mullen (3)	92
107	(11)	-000	MY HANDY MAN 7 R Allan 5-8-7	J Dennis	93
108	(2)	-504	MILL DANCER 73 (D,BF,F,S) E Alston 4-8-6	C Halliwell (5)	98
109	(4)	430-	TINKLERS FOLLY 156J (D,F) Denys Smith 4-8-6	R Ffrench (3)	87
110	(8)	-526	SNAKE PLISSKEN 78 D Haydn Jones 5-8-4	A Bond (3)	95
111	(3)	000-	WATERLORD 149J (D,S) D Nicholls 6-8-0	J Bramhill (3)	85
112	(9)	6-00	RAPID MOVER 7 (B,C,S) D Nolan 9-7-10	Joanne Webster (3)	78

3-1 Maple Bay, 7-2 Rambo Waltzer, 6-1 Talented Ting, 8-1 Master Othe House, 10-1 Lancashire Life, Snake Plissken, Tinklers Folly, 12-1 others

2.55 SPRINGFIELD RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £2,549: 1m 65yd) (8)

201	(3)	050-	BOUNDARY BIRD 143 M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	90
202	(1)	04-5	DOMINO FLYER 45 Mrs A Swinbank 9-0	J Fortune	84
203	(2)	04-0	FOREST BOY 19 (V) K McAuliffe 9-0	J F Egan	93
204	(8)	60-4	GET TOUGH 17 S Dow 9-0	A Daly (5)	95
205	(5)	00-0	MISTER WOODSTICK 17 M Jarvis 9-0	P Robinson	76
206	(7)	0-53	RATTLE 8 J J O'Neill 9-0	S D Williams	87
207	(6)	360-	SOVIET KING 175 P Mitchell 9-0	Jo Hunnam (7)	87
208	(4)	-024	DUNGEON PRINCESS 7 M Channon 8-11	R Hughes	●

9-4 Dungeon Princess, 7-2 Get Tough, 5-1 Mister Woodstick, Rattle, 6-1 Boundary Bird, 8-1 Soviet King, 10-1 others

3.30 DAVIE COOPER MEMORIAL HANDICAP

(£3,934: 6f 5yd) (17)

301	(12)	3300	ULTRA BEET 12 (V,CD,F,G) P Haslam 4-10-0	J Fortune	87
302	(13)	0-00	SUE ME 7 (D,S) W Muir 4-9-11	R Hughes	92
303	(14)	000-	GARNOCK VALLEY 180 (D,F,S) J Berry 6-9-7	J Carroll	91
304	(15)	260-	MISTER WESTSOUND 164 (B,CD,F) Miss L Perratt 4-9-5	J Weaver	91
305	(1)	000-	NATURAL KEY 208 (D,F) D Haydn Jones 3-9-2	A Mackay	87
306	(4)	050-	DENSBEN 164 (C,D,F,G,S) Denys Smith 12-8-11	K Fallon	87
307	(8)	-060	PANTHER 54 (CD,G,S) J Hetherton 6-8-9	K Darley	91
308	(6)	00-5	DIET 7 (V,CD,F,G,S) Miss L Perratt 10-8-9	N Connorton	90
309	(7)	14-0	LEADING PRINCESS 7 (B,CD,F,G) Miss L Perratt 5-8-9	R Lappin	91
310	(5)	0-00	CRAIGIE BOY 3 (B,CD,G,S) N Bycroft 6-8-7	P Robinson	91
311	(3)	2111	MY GALLERY 27 (G,S) A Bailey 5-8-6	Angela Gallimore (7)	●
312	(2)	100-	SUEDORO 199 (CD,F) R McKellar 6-8-6	P Fessey (5)	81
313	(17)	00-0	SAMSUNG LOVELYLADY 7 E Weymes 4-8-4	J Fanning	87
314	(9)	500-	MU-ARRIK 170 (V,D,F,G) G Oldroyd 8-8-2	J F Egan	86
315	(11)	600-	ANOTHER NIGHTMARE 164 (C,S) T Dyer 4-7-13	R Mullen (7)	–
316	(16)	506-	RINUS MANOR 206 E Alston 5-7-12	L Charnock	90
317	(10)	060-	CYMBALO 136J Miss L Perratt 5-7-10	D Wright (3)	–

7-2 My Gallery, 6-1 Ultra Beet, 7-1 Garnock Valley, 8-1 Leading Princess, Diet, 12-1 Natural Key, Densben, 14-1 others

4.05 DUNWAN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £2,507: 5f 4yd) (4)

401	(4)	2	I'M STILL HERE 16 J Berry 9-0	J Carroll	–
402	(1)	22	IRISH FICTION 7 M Channon 9-0	R Hughes	–
403	(3)		OUR FUTURE M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	–
404	(2)		EXPRESS GIRL D Moffatt 8-9	Darren Moffatt (3)	–

6-4 Irish Fiction, 7-4 I'm Still Here, 2-1 Our Future, 8-1 Express Girl

4.40 GLEN LIMITED STAKES

(£2,591: 1m 4f 17yd) (9)

501	(9)	0-12	ASTRAL WEEKS 8 (F,S) L Lungo 5-9-1	K Fallon	98
502	(5)	2307	CALDER KING 8 (V,C,F,S) J Eyre 5-9-1	R Lappin	94
503	(6)	2000	MENTALASANYTHIN 15 (CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 7-9-1	A Mackay	91
504	(4)	00-0	KING CURAN 21 (C,F,G,S) A Bailey 5-8-13	L Charnock	85
505	(3)	6/00	TURGENEV 7 (B,D,G,S) R Bastiman 7-8-13	A Culhane	–
506	(1)	043-	EAU DE COLOGNE 161 (F) C Thornton 4-8-12	D McKeown	●
507	(7)	650-	FASSAN 24J M Hammond 4-8-12	J Carroll	–
508	(2)	36-6	HOUSE OF DREAMS 15 G Moore 4-8-12	J Fortune	93
509	(8)	00-0	CARMENOURA 48 E Alston 4-8-9	S D Williams	–

2-1 Calder King, 11-4 Astral Weeks, 7-1 Eau De Cologne, 8-1 Mentalasanythin, Turgenev, Fassan, 10-1 House Of Dreams, 12-1 others.

5.15 JOSEPH BODWICK 80TH BIRTHDAY HANDICAP

(£3,439: 1m 5f 9yd) (15)

601	(7)	50-5	CUTTHROAT KID 8 (V,CD,F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-12	K Darley	83
602	(5)	64-5	LORD HASTIE 12 (F,G,S) C Thornton 8-9-9	D Pears (3)	80
603	(2)	0-05	SARAWAT 15 (BF,F,G) D Nicholls 8-9-9	Alex Greaves	80
604	(1)	000-	KEEN TO THE LAST 26J M Hammond 4-9-6	K Fallon	89
605	(3)	006-	FANADIYR 26J W Storey 4-9-3	P Fessey (5)	–
606	(4)	0131	COLOSSE 15 (G) J Eyre 4-8-13	R Lappin	81
607	(6)	6110	PREMIER DANCE 21 (F,G) D Haydn Jones 9-8-12	A Mackay	90
608	(11)	/00-	RECLUSE 61J (B,F) Miss L Perratt 5-8-11	J Carroll	–
609	(8)	0042	ME CHEROKEE 8 C Thornton 4-8-8	D McKeown	98
610	(15)	60-1	EUROTWIST 8 (C,G,S) S Kettlewell 7-8-8 (4ex)	J Fortune	94
611	(14)	0/63	PALACE OF GOLD 8 L Lungo 6-8-1	J Fanning	●
612	(13)	320-	VINTAGE TAITTINGER 33J (G) T Dyer 4-7-13	R Mullen (7)	85
613	(9)	0-06	LORD ADVOCATE 7 (B,CD,F,G) D Nolan 8-7-11	N Varley (3)	84
614	(10)	3205	PHILMIST 8 (B,G) C W Elsey 4-7-11	N Kennedy	92
615	(12)	0/5-	FRIENDLY KNIGHT 38J J Haldane 6-7-10	L Charnock	–

4-1 Eurotwist, 5-1 Cutthroat Kid, 6-1 Colosse, 7-1 Me Cherokee, 8-1 Keen To The Last, Sarawat, Palace Of Gold, 10-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Jarvis, 3 winners from 10 runners, 30.0%; S Kettlewell, 7 from 32, 21.9%; P Haslam, 24 from 110, 21.8%; Mrs M Reveley, 31 from 143, 21.7%; M Johnston, 29 from 160, 18.1%; J Berry, 41 from 231, 17.7%

JOCKEYS: P Robinson, 20 winners from 57 rides, 35.1%; J Weaver, 33 from 124, 26.6%; R Lappin, 6 from 25, 24.0%; K Darley, 50 from 212, 23.6%; J Fortune, 17 from 90, 18.9%; J Carroll, 37 from 206, 18.0%.

FONTWELL PARK

THUNDERER

2.10 Prince Nasha. 2.45 Pontoon Bridge. 3.20 Sophie May. 3.55 Desert Run. 4.30 Jojo. 5.05 **FROZEN SEA (nap).**

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

2.10 MIDLAND BANK OLYMPIC APPEAL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£1,977: 2m 6f) (13 runners)

1	4005	THE BLACK MONK 26 (V,D,F,G,S) M Pipe 8-12-0	J Lower
2	0022	QUIET DAWN 3 (CD,BF,F,G) J King 10-11-0	Mr J Culloty (5)
3	2-25	PRINCE NASHA 43 K Cunningham-Brown 6-10-10	D Walsh (5)
4	3530	JOKER JACK 5 (C,F,S) R Dean 11-10-3	A Procter
5	065-	KEDGE 332 (V,S) R Juckes 6-10-1	A Thornton
6	5005	COOCHIE 14 (B,F) R Baker 7-10-0	B Powell
7	0050	RODGER'S PAL 5 (G,S) A Moore 9-10-0	M Batchelor (7)
8	0P06	MISS PIMPERNEL 3 (B,F) A Barrow 6-10-0	Sophie Mitchell (5)
9	-6P3	KENTAVRUS WAY 5 A Moore 5-10-0	L Aspell (5)
10	6008	SUMMER HAVEN 14 N Lampard 7-10-0	D Leahy
11	P-P3	FATHER'S JOY 21 Miss C Caroe 6-10-0	I Lawrence
12	0002	LADY POLY 21 (G) J Poulton 8-10-0	Leesa Long
13	5P0/	HIDDEN FLOWER 926 H Howe 7-10-0	B Fenton (3)

5-2 Quiet Dawn, 9-2 The Black Monk, Prince Nasha, 8-1 Kentavrus Way, 10-1 Lady Poly, Coochie, 14-1 others

2.45 GRIFFIN FACTORS NOVICES CHASE

(£3,098: 2m 3f) (12)

1	2313	FICHU 23 (F,S) Mrs L Richards 8-11-9	B Powell
2	24F2	HERBERT BUCHANAN 13 (D,F) P Nicholls 6-11-9	Mr J Culloty (5)
3	PP-P	AT IT AGAIN 26 W McKenzie-Coles 7-11-2	R Davis
4	-32P	CHALLENGER ROW 27 (BF,S) Mrs L Jewell 6-11-2	T Jenks
5	0022	COBB GATE 21 (B,G) P Hitchens 8-11-2	W McFarland
6	2F64	EMERALD MOON 8 (F,G,S) P Rodford 9-11-2	S Burrough
7	0-P0	JHAL FREZI 10 A Barrow 8-11-2	A Procter
8	81/U	PONTOON BRIDGE 43 (C,F,S) G Harwood 9-11-2	G Upton
9	6U60	TANGO'S DELIGHT 57 D Elsworth 8-11-2	A Thornton
10	P/0P	DUKES HOPE 52 Miss L Bower 9-10-11	L Harvey
11	0642	NIKARDO 5 J King 10-10-11	J R Kavanagh
12	UP50	TOP MISS 9 A Neaves 7-10-11	B Fenton (3)

11-4 Herbert Buchanan, 9-2 Fichu, 5-1 Pontoon Bridge, 6-1 Nikardo, 8-1 Tango's Delight, Cobb Gate, 10-1 Emerald Moon, 12-1 Challenger Row, 14-1 others.

3.20 GALLAGHER GROUP HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,532: 2m 2f) (13)

1	6P12	AMAZE 16 (BF,S) Lady Herries 7-12-0	E Murphy
2	U4FR	GREEN ISLAND 10 (B,D,F,G,S) A Dunn 10-11-12	Mr R White (7)
3	R606	FOODBROKER STAR 23 (S) J Gifford 6-11-8	L Aspell (5)
4	65-4	SEVSO 14 (S) R Baker 7-11-3	B Powell
5	00P1	SOPHIE MAY 23 (CD,F,S) G L Moore 5-11-2	A Thornton
6	5545	KEEL ROW 22 (CD,G) T Thomson Jones 6-10-12	Mr J Culloty (5)
7	P-64	EL GRANDO 30 (S) K Cunningham-Brown 6-10-6	D Walsh (5)
8	40P0	MEANUS MILLER 45 (S) R Rowe 6-10-5	D O'Sullivan
9	11-5	MOYNSHA HOUSE 31 (CD,BF,G,S) B Carley 8-10-4	B Fenton (3)
10	P53/	JOLI'S GREAT 12F (D,G) M Ryan 8-10-0	J Ryan
11	/PP-	COLERIDGE 20F (B) J Sheehan 8-10-0	S Curran
12	/54-	VICTORY GATE 430 (G) Mrs L Jewell 11-10-0	D Leahy
13	/5P-	RUTH'S GAMBLE 419 (D,G) Mrs L Jewell 8-10-0	J R Kavanagh

11-4 Amaze, 5-1 Sophie May, 6-1 Moynsha House, Sevso, 8-1 Keel Row, 10-1 Foodbroker Star, 12-1 others

3.55 STEVE DUDMAN PLANT HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,098: 3m 2f 110yd) (11)

1	P-26	HARRISTOWN LADY 42 (B,F,G) Miss V Williams 9-12-0	A Thornton
2	234-	ST ATHANS LAD 477 (C,F,G) R Curtis 11-11-12	D Morris
3	41-6	DONNA DEL LAGO 292 (B,D,BF,F) G McCourt 10-11-12	B Clifford
4	3423	DOONLOUGHAN 237 (CD,BF,F,G) G Balding 11-11-10	Mr A Balding (7)
5	22P4	DESERT RUN 126 (D,S) P Nicholls 8-11-6	Mr J Culloty (5)
6	-254	WINNIE LORRAINE 5 (CD,F,G,S) R Alner 11-11-4	Mr P Henley (5)
7	5P3P	CYTHERE 26 (B,CD,S) J Gifford 12-11-2	L Aspell (5)
8	PPU-	EARLY MAN 374 (CD,F,S) D Gassell 9-10-13	B Fenton (3)
9	40PF	THE REAL UNYOKE 5 (B,G,S) R Rowe 11-10-11	Mr J Luck (7)
10	P456	RAGLAN ROAD 16 (F,G,S) Miss A Embiricos 12-10-5	J Ryan
11	5PP5	MASTER COMEDY 17 (B,CD,F,S) Miss L Bower 12-10-0	L Harvey

7-2 Doonloughan, 5-1 Winnie Lorraine, Desert Run, 6-1 St Athans Lad, 7-1 Raglan Road, 8-1 Harristown Lady, Cythere, 10-1 others

4.30 HOMELEIGH TIMBER SUPPLIES NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,595: 3m 2f 110yd) (8)

1	56F1	JOJO 21 (S) D Grissell 6-11-6	J R Kavanagh
2	0650	BALLYEDWARD 56 R Buckler 6-11-0	B Powell
3	000	TYPHOON 17 M Campion 6-11-0	J Railton
4	1-04	WARFIELD LAD 48 (S) K Bailey 7-11-0	A Thornton
5	-0PP	GREENACRES ROSE 21 (B) G Ham 6-10-9	S Burrough
6	U032	RISING'S LASS 14 R O'Sullivan 6-10-9	D O'Sullivan
7	004P	SURGICAL SPIRIT 5 J Poulton 6-10-9	M Munday (7)
8	06	PRETORIA DANCER 24 (B) C Brooks 4-10-6	Mr J Culloty (5)

6-4 Jojo, 7-2 Rising's Lass, 4-1 Warfield Lad, 6-1 Pretoria Dancer, 10-1 Ballyedward, 12-1 Surgical Spirit, 16-1 others.

5.05 ARGYLL INSURANCE BAINTON SMITH MAIDEN HURDLE

(£2,612: 2m 2f) (16)

1	505	EQUINOX 13 Mrs M Jones 5-11-6	D Byrne
2	0PPU	FIRST CLASS 17 G Alford 6-11-6	R Greene
3	360	FROZEN SEA 14 G Enright 5-11-6	J R Kavanagh
4	000P	GENERAL JACKIE 9 J Gifford 6-11-6	L Aspell (5)
5	0F0P	HILLSWICK 16 J King 5-11-6	T Jenks
6	005	MACNAMARA 17 S Woodman 6-11-6	B Fenton (3)
7		MILLFRONE R Rowe 6-11-6	D O'Sullivan
8	50F5	SIGMA RUN 10 (G) J Edwards 7-11-6	Mr B Potts (7)
9		SQUERREY Mrs L Jewell 5-11-6	D Leahy
10	002	LAURA LYE 14 B De Haan 6-11-1	J Railton
11	PF04	CASHFLOW CRISIS 45 J Mullins 4-11-0	S Curran
12	056	KRATON GARDEN 19 T Casey 4-11-0	E Murphy
13	543	SHY PADDY 7F K Cunningham-Brown 4-11-0	D Walsh (5)
14	0	ZUNO FLYER 5 A Moore 4-11-0	M Batchelor (7)
15	05	SILVER BIRD 17 M Ryan 4-10-9	J Ryan
16	0	VANOLA 180 C Benstead 4-10-9	D Morris

5-2 Frozen Sea, 4-1 Kraton Garden, 5-1 Sigma Run, 6-1 Shy Paddy, Laura Lye, 12-1 General Jackie, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K Bailey, 10 winners from 25 runners, 40.0%; R Alner, 13 from 36, 36.1%; G Harwood, 13 from 39, 33.3%; M Pipe, 22 from 73, 30.1%; Mrs L Richards, 6 from 24, 25.0%; P Nicholls, 3 from 13, 23.1%.

JOCKEYS: Mr P Henley, 4 winners from 9 rides, 44.4%; E Murphy, 10 from 50, 20.0%; A Procter, 3 from 16, 18.8%; D Morris, 16 from 99, 16.2%; D O'Sullivan, 12 from 87, 13.8%; B Powell, 11 from 95, 11.6%.

Uncle Ernie wins

UNCLE ERNIE, trained at Malton by Jimmy Fitzgerald and ridden by Mark Dwyer, justified 7-4 favouritism by beating Richard Dunwoody's mount, Monalee River, by 4½ lengths in the Oliver Freaney & Co Dan Moore Handicap Chase at Fairyhouse yesterday.

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HAMILTON 102 202
FONTWELL 103 203
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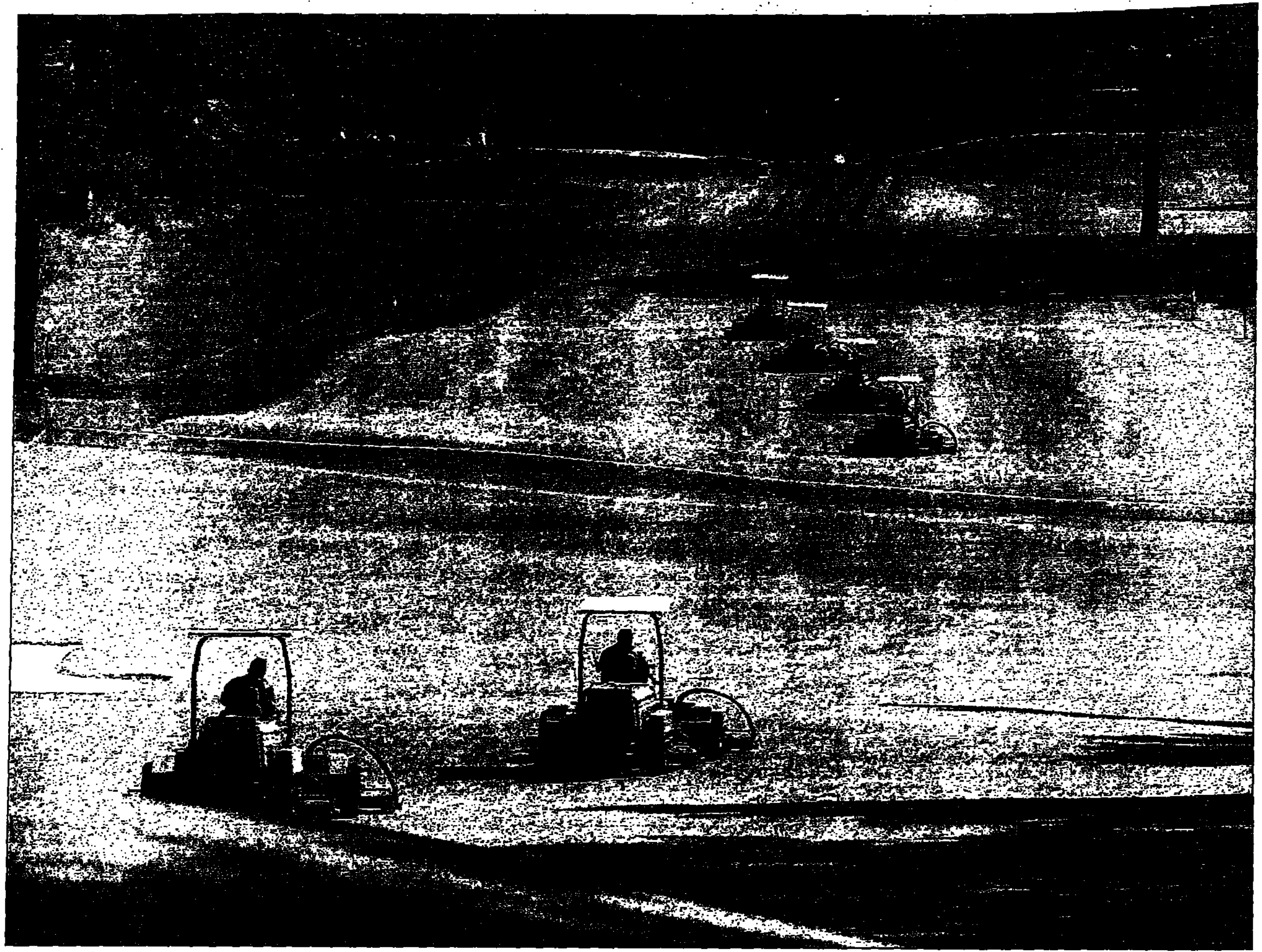
Great and good of golf gather to celebrate another expression of mastery

Hope springs eternal at wintry Augusta

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA



The mowers move along the 8th fairway with military precision at Augusta in preparation for the Masters, which begins today. Photograph: Phil Sandlin

THE front of the wooden clubhouse at Augusta National Golf Club here in Georgia is where the dignitaries arrive, sweeping up Magnolia Lane in cars as long as a Tiger Woods drive and curving around the flowerbed before coming to a halt. But it is around the back of the white, two-storey building where the course begins its headlong plunge nearly 200 feet towards Amen Corner that it all happens.

There, on a patch of greensward as big as a village green, is an enclosure bounded by a thin green rope. All competitors must pass by on their way from the locker-rooms to the putting green or the 1st tee, or from the 18th green back to the clubhouse. This is the most select enclosure in the game. This is where everyone who is anyone gathers during Masters golf. If you are in golf and you cannot get a pass to be in here, you are not in golf.

Yesterday, on the eve of the sixtieth Masters, a weak sun shone on this scene from a sky as clear as gun-metal. It had snowed 200 miles to the north. Amen Corner was far from a riot of azaleas, cherry blossom and white dogwood. The 3rd did not live up to its name, Flowering Peach, nor were there many flowering crab apples in evidence on the 4th. Now a biting wind was marking the last gasps of winter. An oak tree as old as America spread itself benevolently over the enclosure and, beneath it, old-timers said that never in living memory had its branches been so bare of leaves.

Suddenly, there was a stir. Over there, cornered by a posse of journalists as he entered the enclosure from the course, was Gary Player. He was holding forth on the question of age. "Here I am at 60 and I walk around as if I was 20," he was saying. "I may be 60 in age but I am 45 in body."

Nearby was a member of the Royal and Ancient in blazer, club tie and grey flannels, a touch of British sobriety in a riot of colours. A courtesy car had been sent to the club to collect him and his wife and, on getting out of the car, he had muttered to the driver, *sotto voce*: "I don't suppose I could slip you a couple of dollars." The driver bellowed his answer: "Don't bother to *slip* them to me, buddy."

Severiano Ballesteros came striding through after his round with Player. His 39th birthday on Tuesday had not gone unnoticed, nor had Gordon Sherry's 22nd the previous day. Carmen Ballesteros had bought her husband some swimming trunks. "Too bright," Ballesteros said when he saw them.

Now a journalist was questioning him about his swing. "Nick Faldo says you should go and rent a house at Lake Nona and see Lead [David Leadbetter, Faldo's coach, who teaches there] for as long as it takes to sort out your swing. What do you think?" Ballesteros stiffened and looked his questioner long and hard in the eye. He had heard such suggestions again and again. "I have no comment on that," he said.

Ballesteros had wanted José María Olazábal, his countryman, to be at the dinner for the international players held in the clubhouse and, in a gesture of support, the players that night decided to send Olazábal, at home in Spain suffering from rheumatoid arthritis in both feet, a cheery fax. The next day a fax reached Ballesteros from Olazábal. "Play natural," Olazábal, the 1994 champion, urged the man whose travails are in danger of eclipsing his triumphs. "Forget all the bad things."

From just outside the enclosure, it was possible to watch the mowers as they set forth with military precision to trim the most manicured grass in golf. "They've cut the fairways back towards us again this year," Colin Montgomerie explained, breaking off from eating a low-cholesterol, fat-free salad with his wife, Eimear, who has also shed a dramatic amount of weight.

"When you stand on the 1st tee, the fairway is very dark and the 9th fairway very light," Montgomerie said. "The ball rolls less. It makes the course about 15 yards longer than it used to."

Spectators gathered in groups around white plastic tables, drinking in the scene. Waiters hurried hither and yon, bearing trays of drinks. Menus swayed in the gentle wind. The winner, the man over whose shoulders the green jacket would be slipped early on Sunday evening, had passed by, perhaps with no more than a second glance at the knots of people gathered inside the enclosure and perhaps with little acknowledgement from them.

This was the way Bobby Jones had wanted it, and Jones being Jones, this was the way it has worked out. A gathering of the great and good in golf.

HOLE-BY-HOLE GUIDE TO AUGUSTA

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1	400	4	10	485	4
2	555	5	11	455	4
3	360	4	12	155	3
4	205	3	13	485	5
5	435	4	14	405	4
6	180	3	15	500	5
7	360	4	16	170	3
8	535	5	17	400	4
9	435	4	18	405	4
OUT	3,465	36	IN	3,460	36
			TOTAL	6,925	72

MASTERS RECORDS

Most victories: 6: Jack Nicklaus. 4: Arnold Palmer.
Oldest winner: 46, Jack Nicklaus (1986).
Youngest winner: 23, Severiano Ballesteros (1980).
Lowest round: 63, Nick Price (1986).
Lowest outward half: 30, Johnny Miller (1975), Greg Norman (1988).
Lowest inward half: 29, Mark Calcavecchia (1992).
Lowest total: 271, Jack Nicklaus (1965); Ray Floyd (1976).
Biggest winning margin: 9 shots, Jack Nicklaus (1965).
Successful defences: 1965-66, Jack Nicklaus; 1989-90, Nick Faldo.

TEE-OFF TIMES

all times BST, US unless stated
12:45: G Sarazen, B Nelson, S Snead (honorary starters)
13:00: C Coody, marker
13:09: G Brewer, D Ford
13:18: T Aaron, B Casper
13:27: R Tway, T Tryba
13:36: P Azinger, D Gilford (GB)
13:45: N Lancaster, K Triplett
13:54: B Bryant, E Dougherty
14:03: S Ballesteros (Sp), J Maggert
14:12: T Kite, D A Weibring
14:21: P Jacobsen, F Nobilo (NZ)
14:30: J Sluman, B Faxon
14:39: M McCumber, T Herron
14:48: L Janzen, N Price (Zim)
14:57: B Henninger, S McCarron
15:06: A Palmer, *B Marucci
15:15: S Lowery, M Roe (GB)
15:24: I Baker-Finch (Aus), H Sutton
15:33: P Mickelson, S Torrance (GB)
15:42: D Waldorf, S Stricker
15:51: S Hoch, P Stankowski
16:00: R Floyd, D Frost (SA)
16:09: J Gallagher Jr, W Mayfair
16:18: G Player (SA), *C Wollman
16:27: W Austin, M Brooks
16:36: W Glasson, R Estes
16:45: L Mize, C Rocca (It)
16:54: A Lyle (GB), K Perry
17:03: M Calcavecchia, J Huston
17:12: F Funk, P Goydos
17:21: T Watson, S Elkington (Aus)
17:30: B Crenshaw, *T Woods
17:39: N Faldo (GB), J Daly
17:48: B Langer (Ger), *J Courville Jr
17:57: J Nicklaus, M Campbell (NZ)
18:06: J Haas, T Lehman
18:15: C Strange, S Simpson
18:24: D Love III, C Montgomerie (GB)
18:33: F Couples, *G Sherry (GB)
18:42: C Pavin, V Singh (Fiji)
18:51: P Stewart, M O'Meara
19:00: F Zoeller, G Norman (Aus)
19:09: I Woosnam (GB), A Cejka (Ger)
19:18: C Stadler, E Els (SA)
19:27: H Irwin, M Ozaki (Japan)
19:36: J Leonard, D Duval
19:45: L Roberts, S Higashi (Japan)
19:54: D Edwards, J Furyk
* amateur

Davis Love III. His Ist win at the Vth attempt: XVI/I.

TO WIN THE US MASTERS
Augusta. Starts today. Live coverage on BBC.

11/1	F. Couples	33/1	J. Daly
14/1	C. Montgomerie	33/1	J. Haas
14/1	G. Norman	33/1	S. Hoch
16/1	E. Els	33/1	L. Janzen
16/1	D. Love III	33/1	B. Langer
16/1	C. Pavin	33/1	M. O'Meara
16/1	N. Price	33/1	L. Roberts
18/1	N. Faldo	33/1	V. Singh
20/1	S. Elkington	40/1	M. Calcavecchia
20/1	T. Lehman	40/1	D. Frost
20/1	P. Mickelson	40/1	J. Furyk
20/1	I. Woosnam	40/1	P. Stewart

E/W one-quarter the odds a place 1,2,3,4. Other prices on request. Non-starter - no bet.

FORECAST THE FIRST TWO HOME

'95 US Masters Again.	'95 US Open 1,2.	'95 Open Revisited.
B. Crenshaw (50/1)	C. Pavin (16/1)	J. Daly (33/1)
D. Love III (16/1)	G. Norman (14/1)	C. Rocca (150/1)
Dual Forecast odds 420/1	Dual Forecast odds 125/1	Dual Forecast odds 2,000/1

All Dual Forecast examples priced at current odds. If more than two players involved in a play-off all those players, bar outright winner, deemed to have tied for 2nd place.
These prices may have changed since this newspaper was printed. For the very latest prices, page Ladbrokes Teletext 695/6/7 (Ch4).

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Britain pay penalty for indiscipline

Great Britain 5
Latvia 6

GREAT BRITAIN showed some of their old failings in the opening game of pool B in the world ice hockey championships in Eindhoven yesterday, incurring far too many penalties in their defeat (Norman de Mesquita writes).

The winning goal came on the eighth occasion that the Latvians enjoyed a manpower advantage and saw Alexander Belavskis score from his own rebound after a goalmouth scramble.

The Latvians had opened the scoring in the seventeenth minute, only for Paul Adey to sink his own rebound after a defensive mix-up 33 seconds later. Early in the second period, Graham Garden gave Britain the lead for the first time. Too much emphasis on attack, however, allowed the Latvians an equaliser.

Yet another penalty enabled Alex Macijevskis to regain the lead for Latvia, but Steve Moria took advantage of a rare Latvian penalty to bring the scores level once again. Britain then enjoyed a purple patch, with Richard Strachan and Mike Bishop scoring in the space of seven seconds.

On both goals, Andrei Zinkov, the Latvian goaltender, was at fault. Clearly concerned, the Latvians brought on Juris Klodans and his fine saves meant that Latvia did not concede a goal for the rest of the match.

Sergei Boldavesko and Vjaceslav Fanduls struck, however, to ensure that the second period ended with the teams tied at 5-5. In the final period, the better-organised Latvians held Britain at bay and the one Belavskis goal proved enough.

The Latvians showed far more skill, but their shooting let them down, particularly when, for two minutes early in the game, they had a two-man advantage on which they failed to capitalise.

The one British player to come out of the game with his reputation untarnished was Stephen Foster, the young Durham goaltender, who made several outstanding saves, particularly in the third period.

Surrey recruit Julian as overseas player

SURREY, disappointed in their attempt to recruit the South Africa Test cricketer, Brian McMillan, announced yesterday that they had signed Brendon Julian, 25, the Australia fast bowler, as their overseas player for the coming season.

The Western Australia left-armer made his Test debut against England at Old Trafford in 1993, the first of seven appearances for his country.

He has played in more than 50 Sheffield Shield matches since his debut against Tasmania in 1989-90 and last season took 46 wickets at 28.85 runs apiece, nine of them coming in the drawn Sheffield Shield final against South Australia.

McMillan had agreed to sign for two years but the move was blocked by Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa.

Julian has been signed on a one-year contract, leaving Surrey with the option of re-engaging Waqar Younis, of Pakistan, for 1997.

"We are delighted to have someone of Brendon's quality joining us," the Surrey chief executive, Paul Sheldon, said. Dave Gilbert, the county's cricket manager, who is also an Australian, said: "Brendon has immense talent and his all-round skills will make him an integral part of the team."

☐ Colin Stuart, a young Guyana fast bowler, captured three wickets for 35 runs in a fiery spell as New Zealand reached 146 for six on the second day of their three-day match against a West Indies Board XI in Kingstown, St Vincent.

Despite Stuart's efforts, the New Zealanders are still in a strong position to force a victory, having an overall lead of 306 with four wickets remaining.

They dismissed the Board XI for 158, most of the damage being done by Chris Cairns, the Nottinghamshire all-rounder, who took five for 29 from 14 overs, Dion Nash chipping in with three for 37.

The only resistance came from the Board XI's captain, Sherwin Campbell, who made 79 — half of his team's total.

IN BRIEF

Lions aim to test S Africa three times

THE British Isles rugby union team will next year play in a South African township for the first time since apartheid was abolished, as part of a campaign to spread the game to the black community. The game, against an Eastern Province Invitation XV, will be at Korsten, outside Port Elizabeth, on May 24.

It will be the first Lions visit to South Africa since 1980 and the team, chosen from players from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, will play three games against South Africa, the world champions, in Cape Town on June 21, Durban on June 28 and Johannesburg on July 5.

ITINERARY: May 24: Eastern Province XV (Port Elizabeth); 28: Western Province (Cape Town); 31: Free State (Bloemfontein). June 4: Transvaal (Johannesburg); 7: Northern Transvaal (Pretoria); 11: South Eastern Transvaal (Witbank); 14: Natal (Durban), 17: Emerging Springboks (Wellington); 21: South Africa (Cape Town); 24: Border (East London); 28: South Africa (Durban). July 1: SA Barbarians (Welkom); 5: South Africa (Johannesburg).

Poser for Wigan

Rugby league: Wigan could struggle to keep Jason Robinson, the Great Britain wing, away from the clutches of the Australian Rugby League (ARL), even though the player has said he wants to stay at the club. At a reported £1.1 million, a four-year deal for Robinson, 21, was the ARL's heaviest single outlay in £5.4 million spent on luring nine British-based players at the height of the battle with Super League a year ago.

Robinson is due to join an unspecified ARL club when his contract expires at Wigan in June next year. The problem for the financially-pressed club is its inability to match or come anywhere near the ARL deal.

Late shock

Squash: The newly-crowned British Open champion, Jansher Khan, withdrew at the last moment from the final of the Squash Tour 96 Mutualite Francaise suffering from back pain and blisters. Khan had been scheduled to play Jonathan Power, of Canada, yesterday, but his management company, Advantage International, informed the Professional Squash Association that he would not be able to compete, the PSA said. A medical certificate stated Khan would be out of action for at least a week. Power now plays John White, of Australia.

Bad fall

Cycling: Wilfried Nelissen, the Belgian champion, broke his leg in a fall during a race yesterday and will probably miss the rest of the season. Nelissen fell during the Ghent-Wavelgem road race across western Belgium. The injury might keep him out of racing for at least a year.

Kirui hurt

Athletics: Ismael Kirui, the world 5,000 metres gold medal-winner, has pulled out of the BUPA International 5km road race in Portsmouth on Saturday. Kirui, due to face many top Britons, injured his leg last weekend when running in Switzerland.

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12/1	F. Couples	20/1	D. Love III
14/1	C. Montgomerie	20/1	P. Mickelson
14/1	G. Norman	20/1	C. Pavin
14/1	N. Price	25/1	D. Frost
16/1	E. Els	28/1	B. Langer
16/1	N. Faldo	33/1	J. Daly
16/1	T. Lehman	33/1	J. Haas
20/1	S. Elkington	33/1	L. Janzen

Each way one quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4. Others on request.

TOP EUROPEAN PLAYER

2/1	C. Montgomerie	20/1	D. Gilford
5/2	N. Faldo	20/1	S. Lyle
9/2	I. Woosnam	20/1	C. Rocca
5/1	B. Langer	20/1	S. Torrance
20/1	S. Ballesteros	25/1	A. Cejka

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Giggs excused international duty

Wales experiment as Gould looks beyond old guard

By Russell Kempson

BOBBY GOULD has always done things his way, no matter the quizzical looks and raised eyebrows, and he remained true to form yesterday when he announced his Wales squad for the international football match against Switzerland in Lugano on April 24. No Ryan Giggs, who is being allowed to concentrate on his Manchester United commitments, no Mark Hughes, no Ian Rush, and, most surprising, no Neville Southall.

Gould, as he prepares for his fifth match in charge, has decided it is time to try a few options. He knows what Giggs, Hughes and Rush can do and he knows that Southall, even at 37, will play an integral role in the World Cup group seven qualifying campaign, which starts in San Marino on June 2.

The trip to Switzerland is his last opportunity to see what the fringe members of his squad have to offer, especially the younger ones, with Danny Coyne, of Tranmere Rovers, and Andy Marriott, of Wrexham, taking over the goalkeeping duties. Southall, who has 85 caps, will still travel with the party as part of the coaching team.

"I think the time has come for common sense to prevail." Gould, who replaced Mike Smith as manager in August last year, said. "We are approaching a very important time for both Wales and for me, and we have to see how some of these lads get on in the heat of battle.

"Some players seem to have just assumed they would be selected, but there are times when you have to experiment. It is our last competitive game before we get involved in the World Cup."

After the 3-0 defeat against Italy in Terni, near Rome, in January, Gould needs to explore every possibility. Wales were outplayed so comprehensively that it was difficult to feel optimistic about their World Cup prospects in a group which also includes Holland, Belgium and Turkey.

Robert Page, 21, the Watford defender, and Andrew Legge, 29, the Birmingham City midfield player, are included in the senior squad for the first time.

Vinnie Jones, the Wimbledon midfield player, returns from suspension, having been sent off in the 1-0 defeat by Georgia in the European championship qualifier in Cardiff last June.

"Vinnie now has the chance to continue the good sequence of form he is in at the moment," Gould said. "He is playing very well and has cleaned up his act. He was told, in no uncertain terms, that he had to."

Jones, 31, asked Wimbledon for a transfer in December, after losing his place in the side. However, after returning to the first team and playing a leading part in the club's revival, he has indicated that he might like to stay after all. "I love a challenge and the passion is back," he said.

☐ Plymouth Argyle and the city council have plans for a new £25 million stadium to seat 23,000. It is to be built on land near Argyle's Home Park ground.

Plymouth are expected to receive funding from the Grounds Improvement Trust and the European Union.

Brighton and Hove Albion could remain at the Goldstone Ground for another year. The club had ruled this out after the developers, Chartwell, had asked for £480,000 in rent to allow football at the ground next season. The club's chief executive, David Bellotti, has offered £200,000.

SQUAD

WALES PARTY: A Marriott (Wrexham), D Coyne (Tranmere Rovers), S Jenkins (Huddersfield Town), K Symons (Manchester City), C Coleman (Blackburn Rovers), R Page (Watford), M Bowen (Norwich City), B Horne (Everton), M Pembridge (Sheffield Wednesday), J Goss (Norwich City), V Jones (Wimbledon), G Speed (Leeds United), A Legge (Birmingham City), J Robertson (Charlton Athletic), J Hartson (Arsenal), D Saunders (Galatasaray), N Blake (Bolton Wanderers), G Taylor (Sheffield United)

'Cheerful' Busst must wait for surgery

DAVID BUSST, the Coventry City defender, must wait until next week for surgery to repair the compound fracture of his right leg that he sustained on Monday in his side's defeat at Manchester United. Busst, described as "remarkably cheerful", was back in theatre at Hope Hospital, Salford, yesterday, when surgeons checked the wound.

Busst, 28, can expect to remain in hospital for at least ten days and the operation to pin the broken bone will take place once swelling has gone down. Raymond Ross, a consultant orthopaedic surgeon, said yesterday: "This is a serious injury but David is bearing up well. We will continue to monitor him closely in preparation for surgery." Ross believes that it will take up to six months for the fracture to heal and a year before Busst is playing again.

Steve Harkness, 24, of Liverpool, who sustained a broken leg in a challenge by John Salako, of Coventry, said he "bore no grudge" against the player, despite the injury robbing him of a chance to play in the FA Cup Final against Manchester United next month. Harkness said: "I can't bear him any grudges — tackling is part of my game."

☐ Partick Thistle have refused to give refunds after the abandonment of their game against Aberdeen on Tuesday night when floodlights failed. Instead, they will offer free entry when the match is replayed on Tuesday.

NORTHERN IRELAND PARTY (v Sweden, in Belfast, April 24): A Fettis (Nottm Forest), A Davison (Bolton), D Patterson (Luton), B Hunter (Wrexham), C Hill (Leicester), K Rowland (West Ham), N Worthington (Leeds), S Morrow (Arsenal), N Lennon (Leicester), S Lomas (Man City), K Gillespie (Newcastle), M O'Neill (Hibernian), J Magilton (Southampton), M Hughes (West Ham), J Quinn (Blackpool), G McMahon (Tottenham), J O'Boyle (St Johnstone).

JASON REED

Sampras finds his range while serving against Lareau in Hong Kong yesterday

Sampras makes mixed start

PETE SAMPRAS, the world No 2, overcame a lapse in concentration in the second set to defeat Sebastian Lareau, of Canada, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the Hong Kong Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Sampras, the No 1 seed, was joined in the second round by his fellow American, Michael Chang, the No 2 seed, who defeated Marcos Ondruska, of South Africa, 7-6, 6-1.

Sampras, who took time off last week after his defeat by Goran Ivanisevic in the semifinals of the Lipton Championships, was at his best either side of the second set, when he admitted to losing his concentration.

"After the first set I could smell the kill and I was rushing it because I wanted to finish off the match quickly," said Sampras, who is seeking to regain the No 1 ranking from Thomas Muster, of Austria, this week. "I sat down and told myself to keep my composure and that's what I did."

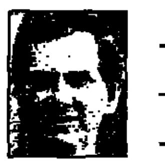
Sampras now takes on Patrick Rafter, of Australia, a wild-card entry. "It will be a different match against Patrick," he said. "Against Sebastian, we both stayed back, but I'll have to take it differently against Patrick. Hopefully, if I can return serve well and wear him out, I can win that match."

Chang, the defending champion, who is seeking a hat-trick of titles in Hong Kong, overcame the loss of an early service break to pin down Ondruska, who is ranked No 103 in the world, with powerful groundstrokes.

Ondruska had beaten Chang in the 1993 Lipton tournament and the American admitted that defeat played on his mind. "I thought about it a little bit because I was defending champion at Lipton when he beat me, as I am here," Chang said. "I was trying to get a good rhythm out there and, after the first set, I played a bit better." Chang now meets Henrik Dreekmann, of Germany, in the second round.

Brett Steven, of New Zealand, the No 7 seed, was beaten 6-1, 6-2 by Gianluca Pozzi, of Italy.

Divided nation desperate for sporting prize



Rob Hughes explains why the South Koreans feel the World Cup could shape their destiny

From his official residence, an English country house incongruously set amid the high rise modernity of Seoul, Tom Harris, Britain's ambassador, can see exactly what South Korea would do with the World Cup 2002. It is general election day in Seoul, and 50 days from a vote which the former prime minister, Dr Lee Hong Koo, has said is more important to his country than the political ballot.

Harris can understand the point. "This country has a great ability to set itself national targets. I saw the willpower they invested into the 1988 Olympic Games, which marked the transition from military authority to democracy. The World Cup would signal the arrival of Korea as one of the world's most developed nations."

South Korea contests the 2002 bid against Japan on June 1. "A World Cup comes once in a lifetime," Dr Lee, who left the office of prime minister four months ago and is now chairman of the World Cup bidding committee, said. "If we get the World Cup, I consider it will not be to South Korea, but to the Korean peninsula. I would invite senior North Korean statesmen to have a discussion on this. It really could be a breakthrough."

He speaks of unification, of the elusive mission which he attempted as prime minister, and which he felt he was close to achieving until the North Korea leader, Kim Il Sung, died of a heart attack. Lee refuses, despite threats of war emanating from north of the demilitarised zone, to accept that a coming together of the two Koreas is beyond question. Furthermore, he thinks sport could succeed where politics has failed, and points to the success four years ago of a joint team at the world youth championships.

Indeed, two weeks after leaving office he suggested to João Havelange, the president of Fifa, the world governing body, that he should seriously consider helping "world peace" by supporting Korea's bid. Lee knew, of course, that Havelange had publicly supported Japan for years.

And yet in Korea, South Korea at any rate, there remains a longing both for the sport that millions play every day and for the potential pulling together of the divided peninsula.

A week ago, during the full moon that has significance to Buddhists, the leaders of six religions prayed together in public for the World Cup to go to Korea. President Kim Young Sam, facing a difficult election for his party, added his support to the bid, and his belief that it would "significantly change Korea's destiny".

It it is clear that whichever country wins Asia's first World Cup, we are naive even to attempt to separate politics from sport. The best we can hope, in these days of billion-pound sporting ventures, is that the political outcome is benign and beneficial.

Harris, an observer of the Far East for more than 20 years, said: "Korea are bidding for it in part as an expression of achievement made in the last two decades. It is a summation of their national pride, and it would show the world just how far this country has come.

"In the 1960s, they had a lower per capita income than Sudan or Uganda. Today, they are advancing so quickly that they will soon pass the per capita income of even top European nations, like the United Kingdom and Italy. You have to understand this when you look at the background, to what they would make of the World Cup at the start of the next millennium."

And then we took tea, a good old English habit which has remained from the days when sport was purely sport.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 9 Minnesota 1, New York 7 Kansas City 3; Toronto 5 California 0; Detroit 10 Seattle 9; Texas 3 Chicago 2, Milwaukee 10 Oakland 4. Postponed: Cleveland v Baltimore.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New Jersey 94 Detroit 111, New York 97 Boston 93; Denver 98 LA Lakers 91; Houston 90 Vancouver 84, Milwaukee 96 Toronto 102, Phoenix 91 Portland 98; Sacramento 95 Dallas 86.

PARIS: European club championship: Semi-finals: Panathinaikos 81 CSKA (Moscow) 71, Barcelona 76 Real Madrid 66.

SWANSEA: British universities championship: Men: Scotland 76 Northern Ireland 96; Wales 75 England 117. Women: Scotland 65 Northern Ireland 35.

CYCLING

BASQUE TOUR: Second stage (Lasarte to Galdakano, 196km): 1, F Casagrande (It) 5hr 12min 01sec; 2, M Fondriest (It) same time; 3, A Olano (Sp) at 2sec; 4, M Gianetti (Switz) at 4, 5, D Garcia (Sp); 6, S Della Santa (It) all same time. Overall positions: 1, Casagrande 8hr 15min 00sec, 2, Olano at 2sec, 3, Gianetti at 4; 4, Garcia same time; 5, Della Santa same time; 6, J Montoya (Sp) at 8.

CRICKET

KINGSTOWN, St Vincent (on final day of three): New Zealand XI 318-9 dec and 204-7dec (C Z Harris 55 not out). West Indies Board XI 158 (S L Campbell 79, C L Cairns 5-29).

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Leicester 1 West Bromwich 2; Luton 1 Stoke 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sundrland	41	21	14	6	56	31	77
Derby	42	20	14	8	66	46	74
C Palace	42	18	15	9	62	45	69
Charlton	40	16	16	8	53	42	64
Stoke	40	16	12	12	53	44	60
Ipswich	40	16	11	13	71	60	59
Huddrsfd	41	16	11	14	56	53	59
Leicester	41	15	13	13	57	58	58
Southend	42	14	13	15	49	56	55
Birmingham	40	14	12	14	55	53	54
Barnsley	41	13	15	13	55	62	54
Sheff Utd	42	14	12	16	51	53	54
Grimsby	40	14	12	14	49	55	54
Norwich	42	13	14	15	54	49	53
Wolvrhmptn	41	13	13	15	55	56	52
Port Vale	39	13	13	13	50	53	52
West Brom	41	14	9	18	51	62	51
Tranmere	40	12	13	15	54	55	49
Portsmth	42	12	12	18	59	66	48
Millwall	41	12	12	17	39	56	48
Reading	40	10	16	14	46	55	46
Oldham	40	11	12	17	49	47	45
Luton	40	10	11	19	36	53	41
Watford	40	6	17	17	45	61	35

SECOND DIVISION: Bournemouth 3 Swansea 1, Brighton 1 Burnley 0; Notts County 4 Bristol Rovers 2, Shrewsbury 0 Chesterfield 0. Third division: Scarborough 0 Bury 2.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Partick 0 Aberdeen 0 (abandoned after 39 minutes).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Forest Green 3 Cinderford 1. Midland division: Postponed: Buckingham Town v Bury Town.

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hendon 3 Worthing 0. Second division: Cheshunt 0 Ware 2

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: West Ham 2 Wimbledon 1.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Postponed: Inter Cardiff v Briton Ferry.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Crusaders 1 Bangor 0; Glenavon 1 Cliftonville 1, Linfield 0 Portadown 1. First division: Carrick 1 Larne 0.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Hill Top 2 Ludlow 2.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 2 Norwich 0; Charlton 1 Millwall 1; Queens Park Rangers 2 Crystal Palace 0. Second division: Cardiff 1 Newport AFC 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Derby 3 Birmingham C 1, Leeds 1 Wolverhampton 0, Liverpool 1 Nottm Forest 0; Sheffield Wed 3 Tranmere 4. Second division: Grimsby 0 Rotherham 1, Mansfield 0 Coventry 3, Sunderland 0 Hull 0.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham 2 Bristol Manor Farm 0, Paulton 5 Westbury 2. Elmore 0 Mangotsfield 4.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: West Midlands Police 3 Sandwell 3.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard 1 Tiptree 1.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Letchworth 1 Hoddesdon 4, Shillington 1 Langford 1; Arlesey 3 Milton Keynes 0; Welwyn Garden 5 Potters Bar 2.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Eastwood Hanley 1 Kidsgrove 1.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Leyton Orient 2 Fulham 0

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Horsham YMCA 3 Mile Oak 2, Oakwood 2 Three Bridges 1, Pagham 0 Portfield 0.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Turkey 1 Azerbaijan 0 (in Ankara)

FRENCH LEAGUE: Auxerre 2 Bordeaux 0; Nice 1 Paris Saint-Germain 2; Montpellier 1 Nantes 0; Rennes 3 St Etienne 0, Strasbourg 1 Cannes 0, Le Havre 0 Gueugnon 2; Martigues 1 Lille 0.

GERMAN LEAGUE: Hansa Rostock 1 Uerdingen 0; Schalke 1 Bayer Leverkusen 1; Karlsruhe 1 1860 Munich 1; Eintracht Frankfurt 2 VfB Stuttgart 2, Cologne 0 Borussia Dortmund 0.

LIBERTADORES CUP: First round: matches: Group one: Cerro Porteno (Para) 2 Espoli (Ecu) 1 (at Asuncion). Group three: San Jose (Bol) 2 Junior (Col) (at Oruro). Group four: Universidad Catolica (Chile) 2 Botafogo (Br) 1 (at Santiago). Group five: San Lorenzo (Arg) 4 Minerven 0 (Ven) (at Buenos Aires).

COPA BRASIL: second round, second leg: Remo 1 Corinthians 1 (1-1 on agg. Corinthians win on away goals).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Isle of Wight festival: Bishop Auckland 0 Havant 1, West Tyne 1 Wellingborough 1: Gateshead 0 Reading 1. Sheffield 0 United States Region (2) 2. Doncaster 2 Vale of White Horse 1, Bury 1 Maidstone 0: Brierley Hill 0 Leeds 3, Coventry 6 East Berks 1, Manchester 6 Andover 2. Stockport 0 Gosport 1, Gravesham 2 East Cornwall 1; Plymouth 3 Luton 0; Isle of Wight 3 Rotherham 1, Peterborough 0 South Tyneside 5; Blackburn 1 Huntingdon 2. English schools Jersey festival: Bishop Auckland 2 Gravesham 1; Hackney 1 Reading 2; Barking 1 Plymouth 1; Jersey A 1 Chiltern 2; Gloucester 0 Maidstone 0; Thurrock 2 Newbury 3; West Cornwall 1 Orpington 4; South Oxford 3 Jersey B 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Calgary 3 Dallas 4 (OT)

EINDHOVEN: World championship: Pool B: Latvia 6 Great Britain 5.

RIFLE SHOOTING

GEORGETOWN: Tour match: Great Britain v Guyana: Teams of eight (300, 600 and 900yds): 1, Great Britain 1,122.114pts, 2 Guyana 1,119 107. 300yds: 1, R Goodluck (Guyana) 50 8, 2, L Orpen-Smellie (GB) 50 8, 3, A Tucker (GB) 50 6. 500yds: 1, Tucker 50.6, 2, Orpen-Smellie 49.7, 3, L Braithwaite (Guyana) 49.5. 900yds: 1, Goodluck 74.11; 2, V Carpenter (GB) 72.9; 3, J Dallas (GB) 71.5. 600yds: 1, Dallas 50 4, 2, M Kirkillo-Stacewicz (GB) 49.9; 3, Goodluck 49.9. 1,000yds: 1, M Brister (GB) 74.11; 2, Goodluck 73 6, 3, Braithwaite 71.7. Short-range agg: 1, Tucker 197.26; 2, Goodluck 196.23, 3, Orpen-Smellie 196.24. Long-range agg: 1, Goodluck 147 17; 2, Brister 142.16, 3, Braithwaite 139.14. Grand agg: 1, Goodluck 343.42; 2, Tucker 334.39; 3, Brister 334.36

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Halifax 30 Castleford 34.

RUGBY UNION

Wills Corroon Hibernia Cup

Royal Navy	12	RAF	14

Royal Navy: Tries: White, Cross. Con: Eyre. RAF: Try: Underwood. Pens: Lazenby (3).

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Otago 33 v Natal 32 (at Dunedin).

SQUASH

RECKLINGHAUSEN, Germany: European under-19 championships: Finals: Boys: L Beachill (Yorks) beat J Russell (Kent) 9-1, 9-3, 9-2. Girls: J Thacker (Yorks) beat T Shenton (Staffs) 5-9, 9-6, 10-9, 9-2.

TENNIS

DELHI: Men's tournament: First round: J-P Fleurian (Fr) bt O Ogorodov (Uzb) 5-7, 6-2, 6-3, J Van Herck (Bel) bt A Jarryd (Swe) 7-6, 6-3, M Bhupathi (India) bt P Srinath (India) 6-3, 6-2, J Winnink (Holl) bt S Groen (Ger) 6-4, 6-3, W Ferreira (SA) bt D Norman (Bel) 6-4, 6-4; B Black (Zim) bt L Paes (India) 3-6, 6-3, 7-5. Second round: J-P Fleurian (Fr) bt J Van Herck (Bel) 6-1, 6-4, S Stolle (Aus) bt J Hlasek (Switz) 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, J Stark (US) bt F Fetterlein (Den) 6-3, 6-4. T Enqvist (Swe) bt M Bhupathi (India) 6-3, 6-0.

ESTORIL: Men's tournament: First round: A Gaudenzi (It) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 1-6, 6-3, 6-0; R Carretero (Sp) bt M Göllner (Ger) 6-4, 6-2; S Pescosolido (It) bt N Marques (Por) 6-3, 6-4; T Muster (Austria) bt D Rikl (Cz) 6-1, 7-5; R Fromberg (Austria) bt J Arrese (Sp) 6-2, 6-2; T Carbonell (Sp) bt K Goossens (Bel) 6-4, 6-2; B Mota (Por) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-7, 6-1, 6-1; J Novak (Cz) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 1-6, 7-6, 6-2; B Mota (Por) bt A Voinea (Rom) 6-7, 6-1 6-1, J Novak (Cz) bt K Kucer (Slovakia) 1-6, 7-6, 6-2.

HONG KONG: Men's tournament: First round: P Rafter (Aus) bt J Hui (HK) 6-0, 6-1, D Prinosil (Ger) bt M Knowles (Bah) 6-3, 7-6; M Woodforde (Aus) bt K Kinnear (US) 6-3, 6-4. S Matsuoka (Japan) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 6-7, 6-4, 7-6, K Carlsen (Den) bt C-U Steeb (Ger) 6-7, 7-5, 6-2, T Woodbridge (Aus) bt P Nyborg (Swe) 6-2, 6-2, R Krajicek (Holl) bt Pan Bing (China) 6-3, 6-0, G Pozzi (It) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-1, 6-2; H Dreekmann (Ger) bt A Olhovskiy (Russ) 7-6, 6-1, P Sampras (US) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-1, 3-6, 6-1; M Chang (US) bt M Ondruska (SA) 7-6, 6-1; M Damm (Cz) bt B Karbacher (Ger) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2.

AMELIA ISLAND, Women's tournament (US unless stated): First round: K Maleeva (Bul) bt Lee (US 6-0, 6-7, 6-2: M McGrath bt J Kandarr (Ger) 6-4, 6-3, L Neiland (Lat) bt A Fusai (Fr) 7-5, 6-1; R Zrubakova (Slovakia) bt N Arendt (Slovakia) 7-5, 6-3, V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) bt L L Garcia (Sp) 6-4, 6-1. Second round: C Martinez (Sp) bt A Temesvari (Hun) 6-1, 6-3; B Schett (Austria) bt M Maleeva (Bul) 6-1, 6-3, M Pierce (Fr) bt S Pitkowski (Fr) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, I Spirlea (Rom) bt P Hy-Boulais (Can) 6-3, 6-2; A Miller bt L Richterova (Cz) 4-6, 6-0, 7-5; J Husarova (Slovakia) bt N Medvedeva (Ukr) 6-4, 7-6. C Rubin bt C Christea (Rom) 6-1, 6-4.

JAKARTA: Women's tournament: First round: N Kijimuta (Japan) bt R McQuillan (Aus) 6-2, 6-4; A Grossman (US) bt P Kamstra (Holl) 2-6, 6-2, 6-2. K Studenikova (Slovakia) bt Park Sung-Hee (S Kor) 6-4, 6-3; C Porwik (Ger) bt C Morariu (US) 6-4, 6-3; M Vento (Ven) bt A Ellwood (Aus) 7-5, 6-2; Y Basuki (Indo) bt J Lee (US) 6-4, 7-6. L Courtois (Bel) bt K Po (US) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, N Feber (Bel) bt A Lumanto (Indo) 6-0, 6-1; L Wild (US) bt M Saeki (Japan) 6-3, 6-4; K Schwendi (Ger) bt Chen Li (China) 6-1, 6-0

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance 16pts £278.40, 15pts £2 15. Four draws (paid on 3 draws) £79.05. 10 homes £4.95. Five aways £30 30.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 16pts £133 75. Ten homes £8.20. Five aways £1.20.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 16pts £29.30. Top 10 points pool. 14pts £223.95; 13pts £37.30. Four draws (paid on three correct) £132.00. Eight homes £1.00. Four aways: £2.00. Easy six. £76. Lucky numbers 30 26 23 35 24 21.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Billericay v Barking. Third division: Aveley v Wealdstone; Epsom and Ewell v Tring. Carlton Trophy: Semi-final replay: Hungerford v Canvey Island.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Postponed: Knowsley v Marine.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Second division: Bath v Newport AFC.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Nottingham Forest v Leeds (7.0). Wolverhampton v Tranmere (at Telford FC, 7.0). Second division: Bradford v Sunderland (7.0). Postponed: Manchester City v Grimsby.

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Merstham v Bedfont: Viking Sports v Cobham.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Langford v Royston. Senior division: Holmer Green v New Bradwell

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Knowle v Southam. Massey Ferguson v West Midland Fire Service; Meir KA v Coventry Sphinx; Northfield v Olton Royale: Upton v Studley BKL: Bloxwich v Chelmsley.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Odd Down v Mangotsfield

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Lowestoft v Walton (7.45); Woodbridge v Harwich and Parkeston.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Willenhall v Barwell.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Jersey festival (from 10.15): Bishop Auckland v Barking; Jersey A v Hackney; Chiltern v Reading; Gravesham v Plymouth; Gloucester v Newbury; Orpington v Thurrock; West Cornwall v South Oxford, Jersey B v Maidstone. English Schools Isle of Wight festival (from 10.15): Isle of Wight v Luton; Manchester v Reading, Huntingdon v Stockport; Brierley v Doncaster; Wellingborough v Havant, Coventry v Plymouth, East Cornwall v Blackburn, Peterborough v Rotherham. English Schools Pakefield festival (from, 10.0): Somerset v Kent, Dorset v Durham; Surrey v West Midlands, Northants v Merseyside, Cornwall v Northumberland

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Lichfield v HM Prisons (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

HOCKEY: Women's international: Great Britain v Holland (Bisham Abbey, 3.0).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Ipswich v Poole (7.30). London v Wolverhampton (7.30); Middlesbrough v Hull (7.30); Sheffield v Edinburgh (7.45).

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Sheehan on Bridge

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

When you are embarking on a cross-ruff in which the defence may be able to make discards in one of the suits to be used as entries, it is important to use the more dangerous entries first. This hand from the 1996 Malta Bridge Festival is a good example.

Dealer East **Game all** **Match-pointed pairs**

```
              ♠J9852
              ♥KQ6
              ♦K10
              ♣Q52
♠Q763          N          ♠K10
♥1084        W   E        ♥3
♦973           S          ♦QJ64
♣J106                     ♣AK8743
              ♠A4
              ♥AJ9752
              ♦A852
              ♣9
```

W	N	E	S
-	-	1C	1H
Pass	2C (1)	Double	2D
Pass	2H	Pass	4H
All Pass			

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: jack of clubs

(1) Showing a sound raise to two hearts (the "unassuming cue-bid").

The jack of clubs held the first trick and declarer ruffed the continuation. She continued with a heart to the king, followed by the king and ace of diamonds. She judged well to ruff the third round of diamonds with the six of hearts. How should *she* continue?

This is the point I was making earlier; the spade entry is safe, the club entry is less so, because of the possibility of an overruff. In practice, the declarer came back to the ace of spades, and played her fourth diamond. West was able to discard his third club and now, after taking the diamond ruff, declarer had no safe way back to hand — a third round of clubs eventually promoted West's ten of hearts.

The safest play was to re-enter hand first with a club ruff. Then West has no dangerous discard on the fourth round of diamonds.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BUSHNELL'S TURTLE
a. The Galapagos turtle
b. An inexplicable rout
c. A submarine

PSALMANAZAR
a. A huge bottle of champagne
b. An impostor
c. A man in the fiery furnace

A COGGESHALL JOB
a. Old boys' nepotism
b. Spick and span
c. Something silly

MATAPAN STEW
a. Leftovers
b. An unnecessary flap
c. A Lucretia Borgia cocktail

Answers on page 46

Keene on Chess

By Raymond Keene
Chess correspondent

Menchik success

The Vera Menchik Memorial tournament in Newcastle resulted in a great success for two British players. Ruth Sheldon, 15, secured a women's grandmaster result while Susan Lalic notched up a performance equivalent to an international master norm for the male title on the World Chess Federation scale.

White: Susan Lalic
Black: Richard Dineley
Menchik Memorial,
Newcastle, April 1996

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	c3	d5
3	exd5	Qxd5
4	d4	Nf6
5	Nf3	e6
6	Be2	cxd4
7	cxd4	Nc6
8	Nc3	Qd6
9	0-0	Be7
10	Be3	0-0
11	a3	b6
12	Bc4	Bb7
13	Qe2	Rac8
14	Rad1	Rfe8
15	Rfe1	h6
16	Ba2	Bf8
17	Qd3	Ne7
18	Ne5	Ned5
19	Nb5	Qb8
20	Bb1	Ba6
21	a4	Red8
22	Bd2	Bb7
23	Qg3	a6
24	Nc3	Nxc3
25	bxc3	g6
26	Bxg6	fxg6
27	Qxg6+	Bg7
28	Qf7+	Kh7
29	Qg6+	Kg8
30	Nf7	Ng4
31	Qxg4	Kxf7
32	Qxe6+	Kf8
33	Bxh6	Qc7
34	Qf8+	Black resigns

White: Ruth Sheldon
Black: Steve Mannion
Menchik Memorial, 1996

Benko Gambit

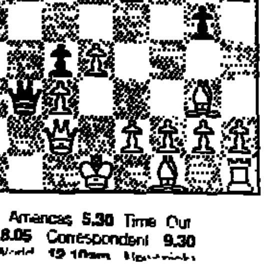
1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	c5
3	d5	b5
4	cxb5	a6
5	f3	axb5
6	e4	Qa5+
7	Bd2	b4
8	Na3	d6
9	Nc4	Qd8
10	Bd3	e6
11	Ne2	exd5
12	exd5	Be7
13	0-0	0-0
14	Qc2	Nbd7
15	a3	Nb6
16	Nf4	h6
17	axb4	Rxa1
18	Rxa1	Nbxd5
19	bxc5	dxc5
20	Rd1	Nb4
21	Bxb4	Qd4+
22	Kh1	Qxf4
23	Bd2	Qc7
24	Bc3	Be6
25	Be5	Qa7
26	Be2	Qa2
27	Qc3	Nd5
28	Qa3	Ra8
29	Qxa2	Rxa2
30	Kg1	Bg5
31	Kf2	Nf4
32	Bf1	Ra4
33	Nd6	Nd5
34	Bb5	Rb4
35	Ra1	f5
36	Ra8+	Kh7
37	Bd3	Be3+
38	Ke2	Kg6
39	Ra7	c4
40	Rxg7+	Kh5
41	Nxc4	Bg5
42	g3	Bf6
43	Bxf6	Nxf6
44	Ne3	Rxb2+
45	Kf1	Nd5
46	Ng2	Rb4
47	h3	Nc3
48	Bxf5	Bc4+
49	Ke1	Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game von Freymann — Alekhine, St Petersburg, 1914. Alekhine was never afraid to sacrifice material speculatively. In this position, Black is a pawn down but has much greater mobility than his opponent, whose king's rook and bishop are still undeveloped. How did Alekhine quickly capitalise?



Solution on page 46

Bogus tradition is burning brightly

Instant history has always been one of the best events in the Olympics. From torch relays to flocks of doves, organisers have created traditions that seem to have been around for ever.

In this Olympic year, the longest relay ever run is already a dozen days old — and it will not be over until mid-July. That is when the Olympic flame — now flickering its way from ancient Olympia to Georgia — will reach Atlanta for the opening of the summer Games. More than 10,000 runners are carrying the torch, first to ancient sites in Greece and then across the United States, in a ritual that seems to reek of antiquity. But the Olympic torch relay is actually younger by half a century than its sponsor, Coca-Cola, and was dreamt up as a propaganda exercise for the Nazi Olympics of Berlin in 1936.

> 'The relay is younger than its sponsor'

At noon on July 20, 1936, there occurred an eerie scene in western Greece that created an instant Olympic tradition. Fifteen Greek maidens, draped in ancient-style costumes, gathered at what had been the entrance to the great stadium at ancient Olympia. Using a large concave reflector, they lit a flame from the rays of the sun. A slender, deeply-tanned boy, clad only in tight-fitting briefs, lit a heavy silver torch from the flame and headed off towards Athens.

Every detail was filmed by Leini Riefenstahl, who actually wanted the torch-bearers to run naked. The Greek peasant boys, recruited to run with the torches, were having none of it, but even so the relay became an instant publicity success.

It had been dreamt up by Dr Carl Diem, the head of the organising committee of the Berlin Games, who had roped in Germany's top chemists and engineers from the Krupp company to design the torches. They burnt magnesium and were meant to stay alight for ten minutes. All went smoothly until the relay reached Yugoslavia, where the torches started to splutter out in less than three minutes. The take-over stages were a kilometre apart, and, in desperation, the runners were forced to leap onto the running boards of cars to keep the flame alive.

Rumours, denied in Berlin, said that the torch had been blown out on several occasions. The cautious Dr Diem insisted that a spare flame, also lit at Olympia, should follow the relay in a ship's lantern on the back seat of an accompanying Opel sedan.

There had been an Olympic flame at the stadium for the 1928 and 1932 Games, but the addition of a relay was an inspiration that captured the imagination of the public and soon built up legends of its own.

At the first postwar Games, in 1948, the lead-off torch-bearer, Corporal Dimitrelis, threw aside his uniform and weapons at the start in a symbolic tribute to peace. In 1952, the flame took to the air for the first time, flying from Athens to Denmark in a miner's lamp. It was not until 1968 that a woman, Enriqueta Basilio, first carried the Olympic flame. And, in Montreal in 1976, a man and a woman who carried the flame into the Olympic stadium together, subsequently married.

This year, the Olympic flame was lit in Olympia before a crowd of 15,000 that included Hillary Clinton. It is now being trotted around Greece as a focal point for the celebrations of the centenary of the 1896 Games in Athens, the first of the modern Olympics. But the real hype will begin when the torch reaches Los Angeles on April 27.

It will be escorted by a caravan of 40 vehicles as it burns its way through 42 states and comes within a two-hour distance of an estimated 90 per cent of the US population. It will travel by foot, bicycle, train, horse, canoe, steamboat, sailing boat and plane. This week it was announced that China's first gold medal-winner, Xu Haifeng, a pistol shooter, will carry the flame through San Francisco's Chinatown. Other specially chosen "community heroes" will take it across the Hoover Dam and the White House lawn.

> 'The runners were forced to leap onto cars'

All of this publicity feast, and the sacred flame itself, is, of course, sponsored by Coca-Cola. Atlanta, the venue for the centenary Olympics, is where Coca-Cola was born ten years before Baron de Coubertin launched his Games in Greece, and the company is spending $600 million [£390 million] to link itself to this summer's Games. In this commercial playing field, even the Olympic torches are for sale. More than 10,000 souvenir torches will be on offer to participants in the relay — at $300 each.

The Olympic torch is clearly something of a collector's item. Joe Kollmann is offering on the Internet a torch from the original 1936 relay, in mint condition, for $4,000. And, in 1992, a Greek on the first leg of the relay from Olympia to Barcelona sat down for a breather and had the torch stolen from him.

But the tradition of the torch is not going to be knocked off track by robbery or commercialism. The Olympic flame, like the Games, has endured and survived through wars, terrorism, drug scandals and boycotts.

Perhaps, though, the torch masters should beware. Not all Olympic traditions survive. The releasing of doves has been a focal point of every opening ceremony since 1920 but, at the Seoul Olympics of 1988, the traditions of doves and torch came into conflict. A number of the birds roosted in the cauldron of the Olympic flame and were incinerated before a worldwide audience of hundreds of millions. This time, the entry of the Olympic torch will be as spectacular as ever — but the doves have been given the night off.

JOHN BRYANT

Leading clubs will delay decision to make or break

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

REPRESENTATIVES of England's leading rugby union clubs will try to buy time today before they decide whether to bow to their governing body, the Rugby Football Union (RFU), or to go their own way.

The first division clubs meet in London this morning, angered at the RFU's refusal to grant them the independence of action they believe is necessary in the sport's professional era. But the implications for them of a breakaway are horrendous. Barely able, in many cases, to support impending wage bills, they would be faced with running a parallel game — with all the logistical costs implied — and would be obliged to deny their players international rugby.

"It is the ultimate, nightmare club v country scenario," Phil de Glanville, the Bath captain and England centre, said. "The players are in an intolerable position. There is no question of a compromise not being available which would be of benefit to both sides. But there needs to be a lot of give and take."

The situation created by the RFU's refusal to concede negotiating and administrative rights to the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Limited (EPRUC) on Tuesday has placed the clubs' backs against a wall. What follows will be the acid test of the unity of EPRUC and the support from their partners in the European Rugby Clubs Association, formed in January. For, if English clubs are to contemplate a breakaway, they must carry their opposite numbers from Wales and France with them or be left with only themselves to play.

Ireland's clubs have already agreed a new structure with their union, the Scots have been less involved in the endless round of meetings prior to the establishment of the European association. In any case, it is competition with France and Wales that the English clubs seek, both to enhance the quality of their rugby and to boost their revenue to pay salaries next season to players and staff.

Richmond yesterday signed Adrian Davies, 27, the stand-off half capped nine times by Wales, and Andy Moore, 27, who has played four times at scrum half for Wales, from Cardiff. Richmond, assured of promotion to a 14-strong Courage Clubs Championship second division next season, are seeking four more players with the backing of Ashley Levett, the Monaco-based millionaire.

Implicit in all this is the role of television. Without television money, the clubs are lost, which weakens their negotiating position. Although television executives have assured the national unions that they will negotiate only with them, there is reason to suppose the clubs have also been in talks and may feel frustrated enough to try and deliver the present generation of English players to the highest bidder, lock, stock and barrel.

The imponderable for the clubs is the proportion of the game they represent. Yesterday, Richard Mawditt, the chairman of Bath, suggested that, rather than the clubs breaking away, Cliff Brittle and the RFU executive committee were already splitting from the clubs. There is no doubt that the clubs see Brittle, the executive committee chairman, as the main stumbling block to progress.

"Our representative at Thursday's meeting will not be mandated to disaffiliate from the RFU," Mawditt said. "In fact, I doubt if many there will be, but he can talk in those terms if that is the way we have to confront the RFU."

Against that, Symon Elliott, chief executive of Richmond, offered the RFU his club's support. Richmond have played no part in negotiations thus far but they will be promoted to the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship next season and thus qualify for membership of EPRUC. "As a founding member of the RFU, Richmond supports them in their role as controller of the game in England," Elliott said. "I very much hope EPRUC and the RFU can resolve their differences."

But de Glanville asked: "How can the clubs plan for professional rugby without a guaranteed source of income which is not subject to the vagaries of a committee? That is a fundamental principle." At the moment, de Glanville has only his RFU contract, running until next September, as his rugby income; Bath, like most clubs, are still struggling to finalise their contractual arrangements for next season.

"There has to be a balance between giving the clubs the autonomy they want and commitment by the clubs to work under the RFU," de Glanville said. If ever there was a time for players and long-standing club officials to make their views known, it is now.

De Glanville: "nightmare"

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ANDRÉ CAMARA

Underwood outstrips the defence and secures the winning try at Twickenham

Underwood sinks Navy

Royal Navy 12
RAF 14

By Peter Bills

RORY UNDERWOOD ensured himself yet another fixture to cram into the congested finish to his rugby union season by scoring the try that loosened the Navy's hold on the Inter Services title at Twickenham yesterday.

Underwood exposed some shaky tackling to break past White and race almost 30 yards for the winning score. It meant that the RAF won the Willis Corroon Hibernia Cup, played for by these two sides, and gives them an opportunity to land their first services title since 1994 when they play the Army next Wednesday.

Until Underwood's intervention, forward might, exemplified in the bulky form of Bob Armstrong, of Bristol, seemed to have put the Navy on course to come from behind and retain their title.

Navy took until the second half to get to grips with a spirited RAF side. Once they had done so, they swiftly transformed a 9-0 interval deficit into a 12-9 lead, which should have been consolidated by their forward superiority.

The Navy launched a series of tough, driving runs, which the RAF defence did well to repel. But after Lazenby's three first-half penalties at 25, 33 and 37 minutes, the Navy scored five minutes after half-time. Livingstone darted round the side of a maul to put White through for the try. Crucially, Eyre's conversion hit a post.

Sixteen minutes later, the Navy were ahead and justly so because of the stirring efforts of their forwards. Harrison won a lineout and the forwards mauled the ball to the line, where Cross scored. Eyre's conversion seemed to set up the Navy for victory but it was the RAF, again prospering from their policy of spreading the play, who struck back.

It was a spirited end to a lively game in which just 700 spectators made a surprising amount of noise in a stadium capable of holding 78,000.

SCORERS: Royal Navy: Tries: White, Cross. Conversion: Eyre. RAF: Try: Underwood. Penalty goals: Lazenby (3).

NAVY: Lt K B Eyre (CTCRM), LPT R Williams (HMS Raleigh), L/S D Sibson (HMS Richmond), Mne C White (RM Deal), Mne S Brown (RM Deal), CPO I Fletcher (HMS Neptune), Cpl P Livingstone (R Stonehouse); LS N D Bartlett (HMS Osprey), Cpl J Wollorton (CTCRM), WEM D Parkes (HMS Montrose), Cpl R Armstrong (CTCRM), LRO G Harrison (HMS Warrior), L/Cpl D Cross (RM Stonehouse). Capt C B Palmer (HMS Warrior), C/Sgt M Hewitt (RM Deal)

RAF: Sgt S Lazenby (RAF Cosford), SAC G Sharp (RAF Ludlow Manor), Cpl D Morgan (RAF Sealand), Cpl S Roke (RAF Wyton), Flt Lt R Underwood (RAF Cranwell), Cpl N James (RAF Cranwell), Sgt S Worrall (RAF Cottesmore); APO J Thorpe (Yorkshire), Sqn Ldr R Miller (RAF Wyton), Jnr Tech B Williams (RAF Brize Norton), Sgt C Morgan (RAF Brize Norton), SAC P Taylor (RAF Northolt), SAC L Oakey (RAF Brize Norton), Jnr Tech S Boote (RAF Cosford), Flt Lt C Moore (RAF Ludlow Manor). Roke replaced by SAC A George (RAF St Athan, 40min); Oakey replaced by Cpl A Nisbet (RAF Halton, 82).

Referee: C J Harrison (RFU).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45

BUSHNELL'S TURTLE
(c) Cornelius van Drebel successfully demonstrated a submarine in the Thames in the reign of James I. But the first to be used in naval warfare was David Bushnell's Turtle built at Saybrook, Conn., in 1775 and used to attack (unsuccessfully) the British 64-gun Eagle in New York harbour. It was made of oak, coated with tar and looked like two turtle shells joined together. A foot pedal operated a cock to let in water when it was desired to dive, and two other hand pumps expelled the water to make the vessel rise again.

PSALMANAZAR
(b) Georges Psalmanazar, the classic type of an impostor. A Frenchman, whose real name is unknown to this day, he appeared in London in 1703 claiming to be a native of Formosa, at that time an almost unknown island. In 1704 he published an account of Formosa with a grammar of the language, which from beginning to end was a fabrication of his own. The literary and critical world of London was taken in, but his imposture was exposed by Roman Catholic missionaries who had been in Formosa.

A COGGESHALL JOB
(c) Something foolish. It is said that the Essex Men of Coggeshall wanted to divert the current of a stream, and so fixed hurdles in its bed. Another (presumably Suffolk) tale is that a mad dog bit a wheelbarrow, and the people, fearing the wheelbarrow might go mad, chained it up in a shed.

MATAPAN STEW
(a) A meal concocted of leftovers, and so called from the fact that the cook of HMAS Perth served a scratch hot meal during the Battle of Matapan, 28 March 1941.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Be4! 2 Qxb3 cxb3 3 Kc1 Nc4 and the b-pawn swiftly promotes.

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RADIO CHOICE

Sensual boost for beauty

Frederic Leighton: An Eminent Enigma. *Radio 3, 7.55pm.*

A century after the death of Leighton, Victorian painter, president of the Royal Academy, and assembler of beautiful objects, some non-aesthetic questions remain unanswered. Did he have affairs with married women in high society? Did he sire illegitimate children? Was he homosexual? Less pruriently, who modelled for him when he painted his *Venus Disrobing for the Bath*? Accompanying Tim Barringer on his visit to Leighton's London house, now a memorial museum, are art historians Liz Prettejohn and Christopher Newall. They explain how it happened that, in an era we tend to think of as strait-laced, Leighton succeeded in giving such a sensual boost to an art movement dedicated to the worship of beauty for beauty's sake.

Analysis: Train and Prosper? *Radio 4, 8.00pm.*

The starting point for Richard Cockett's inquiry into the links between education and training and between jobs and economic prosperity, is the belief that the 19th-century academic concept of education survives in the Britain of the 1990s. More specifically, education is still regarded as a social exercise rather than as a shaper of basic skills. Cockett's own belief is that a direct connection between education and training and economic growth has yet to be proved conclusively. By itself, he thinks, it would not create more jobs. What it could create is a highly skilled work-force capable of doing today's and tomorrow's jobs better.

Peter Davalle

RADIO ONE

FM Stereo 4.00am Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Kevin Greening **12.00** Lisa I'Anson incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat, **1.15** The Net and at **1.40** Soul Classic **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Dave Pearce, incl **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat, and at **6.15** The Net **7.00** Evening Session **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Claire Sturgess, incl at **12.15am** The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce, incl at **10.00** Pick of the Hits **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** The News Huddlines **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Gospel Train **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden, incl at **1.30** Pause for Thought **3.00** Alex Lester, incl at 3.30 Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme incl **6.55**, **7.55** Racing preview **8.35** The Magazine incl **10.35** Euronews **11.30** Health News **12.00** Midday with Mair incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five incl at **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** On the Line **8.05** Women on Top **9.05** SportsAmerica **9.35** American Graffiti **10.05** News Talk **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** After Hours — By-election Special **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anne Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST. 5.00am** News **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** World Today **7.30** Sports International **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** Network UK **9.00** News in German **9.15** Composer of the Month **9.45** Health Matters **10.00** News **10.05** Business **10.15** Sports International **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf **12.00** World News **12.30pm** Meridian **1.00** News in German **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Assignment **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack X Press **4.00** News **4.05** Sport **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.10** World Today **6.25** Take Five **6.30** News in German **6.45** Sport **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Assignment **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** John Peel **10.00** World News **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **12.00** News **12.10am** Take Five **12.15** Soundbyte **12.30** Blues World **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Good Books **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Outlook **2.55** Words of Faith **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Thirty-Minute Drama: Murder in Mesopotamia **4.00** News **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Margaret Howard **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Travel Guide **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. With Andrew McGregor. Vanhal (String Quartet in A); Dvořák (Symphonic Variations); Saint-Saëns (Two Choruses, Op 68); Elgar (Overture: Cockaigne); Croft (Suite: The Twin Rivals); Bliss (Cello Concerto)

9.00 Morning Collection. With Catriona Young. Vaughan Williams (English Folk Song Suite); Chopin (Polonaise in A flat, Op 53); Allegri (Miserere); Schumann (Humoreske, Op 20)

10.00 Musical Encounters. With Chris Wines. *Artist of the Week*: Boris Berezovsky, piano. Liszt (Etude d'exécution transcendante No 8, Wilde Jagd); **10.06** Charpentier (Acteon, excerpts); Onslow (String Quintet in C minor, Bullet); Bartók (Contrasts); **11.00** Liszt (Etude d'exécution transcendante No 9, Ricordanza); Berg (Three Movements, Lyric Suite); Mozart (Al desio); Strauss (Five Piano Pieces, Op 3)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Muffat. With David McGuinness. Muffat and Son. Georg Muffat (Suite in G, Laeta poesis); Gottlieb Muffat (Suite No 1 in C; Toccata No 6 in F); Georg Muffat (Sonata No 4 in E minor, Armonico tributo)

1.00pm We Must Get Together Some Time. Gordon Stewart introduces the first of three programmes of operatic excerpts from Monteverdi to Wagner

2.00 Carmina Quartet. Haydn (String Quartet in D, Op 76 No 5); Berg (String Quartet, Op 3); Schubert (String Quartet in D)

3.30 The BBC Orchestras: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska; Ernst Kovacic, violin. Klami (Overture: The Cobblers on the Heath); Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D); Dvorak (Symphony No 9 in E minor, From the New World)

5.00 The Music Machine. With Julian Gregory

5.15 In Tune. Nicola Heywood Thomas celebrates the achievements of Welsh National Opera as it nears its 50th anniversary including Gounod (Rondo of the Golden Calf, Faust)

6.55 Live from Covent Garden: Arabella. The last opera from the partnership between Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal, sung in German. The Royal Opera Chorus and the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, under Mark Elder. Act 1; **7.55** Frederic Leighton: See Choice; **8.25** Act 2; **9.10** Between Heaven and Hell. A portrait of Jerusalem; **9.45** Act 3

10.45 Night Waves. Tony Palmer reports on the opening night of *Some Sunny Day*, Martin Sherman's new play, and talks about Woody Allen's latest film, *Mighty Aphrodite*

11.30 Composer of the Week: Schubert. With Paul Guinery (r)

12.30-1.00am Jazz Notes. A first broadcast for Mark Lockheart's new group, Matheran

RADIO 4

6.00am News Briefing incl Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today *incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45* Thought for the Day **8.40** Tips from Women Gardeners **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 The Moral Maze, with Michael Buerk

10.00 News; Pankhiraj (FM only), by Tanika Gupta. With Meera Syal and Souad Faress (3/4)

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Looking Forward to the Past. Joining Paul Boateng are Benny Green, *Times* columnist Nigella Lawson, Bill Pertwee and Dr Roy Porter **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; A Popish Plot, by Peter Luke tells the extraordinary true story of how the Papal Swiss Guard came into being. With Stratford Johns, June Tobin, Cyril Shaps and Andrew Branch

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker sees *On the Line* in Dundee

4.45 Short Story. Miss Menon Did Not Believe in Magic, by Dina Mehta. Lack of choice has made Indira Menon a bitter woman, but an unexpected bunch of flowers transforms her attitude. Read by Vayu Naidu

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Darling You Were Marvellous. Sandi Toksvig is joined by Tony Hawks, Neil Mullarkey, Kate Robbins and Fred Macaulay

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Million Pound Radio Show Millennium Special. A comic look back at the great turning points of the last 1,000 years. Written and presented by Andy Hamilton and Nick Revell with Felicity Montagu and Jasper Jacob

8.00 Analysis: Train and Prosper? See Choice

8.45 Better Left Unsaid? A new series looking at six unsent letters begins with former armed robber John Williams writing to his mother

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? With Frederick Dove

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime. Stalin's Nose, by Rory MacLean. Read by Alistair McGowan (9/10)

11.00 George Melly's Owning Up. The last part of Joe Dunlop's dramatisation of George Melly's autobiography. With Steve Steen, Gary Olsen and Charlotte Coleman

11.30 Utopia and Other Destinations. The environmentalist Jonathon Porritt talks about his personal vision of Utopia.

12.00 News incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book. Devil in a Blue Dress, by Walter Mosley (9/10) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

Sharing the problems of finding a mate

If Jesus Christ was looking for a flatmate, would he mention in the advertisement the fact that he was seeking a Christian? Or would he just put "room for rent" and see who turned up? I think the latter, not least because the last person to consider himself a Christian was surely Jesus Christ. Such descriptions are for followers, not leaders.

Nor is there much evidence in the Bible that Jesus, a man born in a stable, ever enjoyed the luxury of having a "spare room to let, suit quiet, professional, vegan, non-smoker with GSOH", which for those who live outside the classified ads stands for Good Sense Of Humour.

These bizarre matters arise from last night's **Modern Times** (BBC2), a series which is uneven to say the least, but which on this occasion had me chuckling all the way through. But then the Goodness of my SOH is *near-legendary*.

The notion was to take a few groups of people and watch them recruit a flatmate. This is an old idea but last night it worked an absolute treat. Of course, being on BBC2, the whole thing was based in London and the recruiters were all rather well-spoken young things.

They included three chaps looking for "two girls to even things up". Three? Two? Even? Yes, I think I see. And there were three Christian girls, one of whom agonised at the beginning about whether Christ would say he wanted a Christian. She decided he would.

There were also two girls, looking for a male. One thought the main qualification was, yes, a GSOH while the other wanted somebody who "looked good in a towel". She even asked one of the interviewees if he looked good in a towel and he said — you'll be amazed at this — that he did.

Interviewees? Try to stay abreast of modern life. The days when a person with a spare room was pleased to hear from someone without one are long gone. Each of our groups interviewed dozens of people, one even planned to throw a party for all 40 applicants.

I liked the Christians best, in entertainment terms. The thing is, how to tell if someone really is a Christian? One chap told them, when asked about prayer: "When you want me to pray just knock on the door and tell me where to kneel." Thanks, we'll let you know.

I also liked the Christians *least*. They seemed to have missed the point, which is that if Jesus had a room empty he would have looked for someone who needed a home.

Carl Bridgewater, aged ten, was delivering a newspaper to Yew Tree Farm in 1978 when he was murdered, apparently having interrupted a robbery. Four men went to jail in a case which entirely hinged on the confession of one of them, Patrick Molloy, who died in prison.

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

All have pleaded their innocence ever since and indeed one of them, Michael Hickey, turned down parole last year because he is determined to stay in jail until he has cleared his name.

Rough Justice *(BBC1)* returned to the subject last night. The convictions have always looked questionable, for there were no witnesses and no forensic evidence and the "confession" made by Molloy was quickly withdrawn. Several independent inquiries have exposed procedural errors by the police and Molloy always said the confession was beaten out of him.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, refuses to send the case back to the appeal court. Yet there is important new evidence. This includes the fact that two fingerprints found on Carl's bicycle, which was thrown into a pigsty after the murder, were never matched: they did not belong to any of the convicted men yet this fact was withheld from the defence at the original trial.

Rough Justice made a powerful case and Mr Howard could do himself some good by heeding it.

Last night's other highlight was a boost for the British car industry. When I was a lad no self-respecting thriller was without an old-model Jaguar, often a Mark 10, which only had to offer a glimpse of its registration letter to tell us that it was about to be blown up, driven over a cliff or firebombed.

Now comes **Bodyguards** *(ITV). And here comes an* old-model Mercedes. Man throws grenade, bang! End of Mercedes. And here, 20 minutes later, comes a car chase between a gleaming British N-reg saloon and an E-reg BMW of a nondescript shape long abandoned. Whoops! The BMW goes off the road and turns itself into scrap metal.

What a relief: at last, needing a car wreck, the television industry turns to foreign muck. Gleaming British motors come through unscathed. *Bodyguards* is billed as a pilot for a series, so there is time yet to have a Volvo reduced to iron filings in a chase against a Metro.

Aside from that, *Bodyguards* is old-fashioned, routine stuff. It is all about the Close Protection Group (CPG) formed from a merger between the Diplomatic Protection Group and Special Branch. Or something like that.

Plot? If you insist. Internal dissent between Christians and Muslims in small African country, leaders in London for conference, brave CPG types, including Inspector Liz Shaw (Louise Lombard) deployed to protect same.

Dialogue? You might call it that. Sound bites, really. "I've got a source to protect." "Lucky man, I've got a country to protect." But I enjoyed the parting shot from the Foreign Secretary to Inspector Shaw: "Back at 6.30 please, evening dress, no unnatural bulges."

I reckon Jesus will be advertising rooms in a Mayfair penthouse before Malcolm Rifkind is heard to say that.

● *Matthew Bond is on holiday*

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (71782)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (94463)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7913188)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7139850)

9.45 Kilroy (s) (1299343)

10.30 Good Morning (s) (69879)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6992053)

12.05pm Room for Improvement (s) (8770343)

12.35 Going for Gold. General knowledge quiz presented by the dapper Henry Kelly (s) (3821701)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (44940) **1.30 Regional News** (94570898)

1.40 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (44672362)

2.00 The Flying Doctors Double Bill (Ceefax) (s) (59121)

3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (1711256) **3.50 Dinobabies** (s) (1791492) **4.10 The Wizard of Oz** (Ceefax) (2901343) **4.35 The Boot Street Band** (Ceefax) (s) (9500053) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (1013904 **5.10 The Ant and Dec Show** (Ceefax) (s) (1219508)

5.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (152508)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (850)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (430)

7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (3492)

7.30 EastEnders. Tiffany does Tony a favour, and Kathy has a special request for Pat. (Ceefax) (s) (614)

8.00 Wildlife on One: The Dolphin Diaries. David Attenborough narrates this revealing study of dolphins filmed in the wild (Ceefax) (s) (2140)

8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers. Terry Wogan presents a look at the trials and tribulations of sports personalities (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1275)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4614)

9.30 Making Babies. A focus on Professor Robert Winston, who runs Britain's busiest IVF clinic at Hammersmith Hospital. Despite being taken off her first IVF after a potentially dangerous reaction to the hormone drugs, Tania is determined not to give up and after 12 years of cancer, Rebecca's only chance is IVF and a donor egg (Ceefax) (s) (62695)

10.25 Golf — the US Masters 1996. Coverage of the 60th US Masters from Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia (s) (267324)

NB: Owing to live golf coverage, the following programme may change

11.25 FILM: The Incident (1990) with Walter Matthau, Susan Blakely, Robert Carradine, Peter Firth, Barnard Hughes and Harry Morgan. A small-town lawyer is hired to defend a German PoW who has been charged with the murder of the local doctor. Directed by Joseph Sargent (s) (547362)

12.55am By-Election Special. Live coverage of the results of the Staffordshire South East by-election. With analysis from Peter Snow (1093657)

2.00 Weather (5856096)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Age and Identity (4133071) **6.50** Bloodlines. A Family Legacy (8733275)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (4827898)

7.30 Christopher Crocodile (r) (7463966) **7.35 Charlie Chalk** (r) (s) (9646701) **7.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4890527) **8.15 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (Ceefax) (7938121) **8.35 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4855625) **9.05 Mighty Max** (s) (7903701) **9.25 F.O.T.** (s) (7353121) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (s) (6991459) **10.25** (r) **Star Trek** (4296256) **10.50 The Tick** (r) (1164508) **11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)** (r) (8825053)

12.00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (79527)

12.30pm Working Lunch (92099) **1.00 Charlie Chalk** (r) (42826188)

1.15 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures — Planet Earth, an Explorer's Guide (4/5) (r) (s) (190256)

2.15 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7446695)

3.00 News (Ceefax) (7874898)

3.05 The Natural World (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7857633)

3.55 News (Ceefax) (2094072)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (343)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (527)

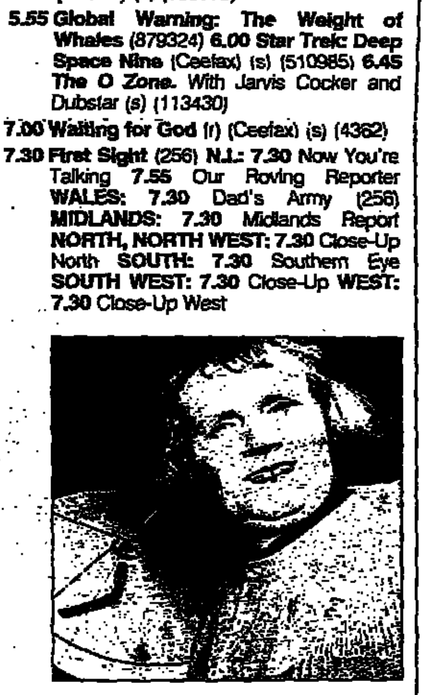
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. With America's First Lady, Hillary Clinton (Ceefax) (s) (9138689)

5.40 Carrier's Caribbean: Puerto Rico (Ceefax) (s) (958879)

5.55 Global Warning: The Weight of Whales (879324) **6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine** (Ceefax) (s) (510985) **6.45 The O Zone.** With Jarvis Cocker and Dubstar (s) (113430)

7.00 Waiting for God (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4362)

7.30 First Sight (256) **N.I.: 7.30** Now You're Talking **7.55** Our Roving Reporter **WALES: 7.30** Dad's Army (256) **MIDLANDS: 7.30** Midlands Report **NORTH, NORTH WEST: 7.30** Close-Up North **SOUTH: 7.30** Southern Eye **SOUTH WEST: 7.30** Close-Up **WEST: 7.30** Close-Up West



Jenny Randles, UFO expert (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Secrets of the Paranormal** (Ceefax) (s) (1922)

8.30 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarke puts the latest Aston Martins to the test and Quentin Wilson reveals the results of the survey on three-year-old cars (Ceefax) (s) (9817)

9.00 Sykes. Comedy with Eric Sykes (r) (2256)

9.30 Golf — the US Masters 1996. Live coverage from Augusta, Georgia (52091)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (226237)

11.15 Late Review (834430)

12.00 Screen Firsts: National Achievement Day (50164)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Secrets of the Paranormal
BBC2, 8.00pm

You either believe in unidentified flying objects or you do not but either way Jenny Randles has an intriguing story to tell. She has devoted much of her last 20 years to studying UFOs and the curious role of the Ministry of Defence in tracking them. The tale begins in 1952 when the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, sent a note to his Air Minister: "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to?" The result was the setting-up of a department in the Ministry of Defence to collate UFO activity. But its deliberations have remained largely secret and to Jenny Randles's suspicious mind this could be sinister. Among her witnesses is a retired fireman whose sighting of a UFO in Cumberland led to a visit from two bowler-hatted men apparently acting for the British Government.

Ellington
ITV, 9.00pm

Chris Ellison, who was so good as the rough detective Burnside in *The Bill*, takes on a new role as a sports promoter and agent. Ellington (who, like Lovejoy, seems to have only one name) is another rough diamond, as he needs to be to prevent his star clients being nobbled by a rival management. Developed from a rather unpromising, yet highly popular, pilot which was screened 18 months ago, *Ellington* offers action rather than subtlety. It is the sort of show where you can spot the baddies at a glance by the nasty expressions on their faces. Our hero is not exactly a bundle of charm, either, but at least he is on the side of the angels. A tampered racing car and a washed-up darts champion are the pivots for tonight's episode, in which Ian Botham makes the first of a promised series of celebrity cameos.

Undercover Britain: Shabby Treatment
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Fay Macniece, a former psychiatric patient, finds out how today's mentally ill are faring under the Care in the Community programme. Her answer is: pretty badly. She is not advocating a return to Victorian lunatic asylums. But, checking incognito into privately run residential care homes and so-called benefit hotels, she concludes that vulnerable people are being horribly exploited. Her report is a catalogue of terrible food, filthy rooms and minimum stimluation. One care home promises music appreciation. Pressed by Macniece, the owner says this means a radio in the room. When she tries to approach him on other matters, he puts her out into the street. Macniece may be highlighting the worst cases, but she offers ample evidence that the Department of Health's own guidelines are being routinely ignored.

Lost Contact
Channel 4, 9.30pm

The woman from Kent Social Services says it is not their policy to break up families. She is referring to the case of Gill and her ten-year battle for access to her daughters, Josie and Ella. Now 21 and 16, the girls spent most of their lives with foster parents or in children's homes. Gill's contacts with them were severely controlled and rationed. For five years she did not see Josie at all. She seems to have a point. Yet Chris Curling's film takes neither side and tries to be fair to both. The girls, who had different fathers, were taken into care because the family home was judged to be unsuitable. Gill, who was herself adopted as a baby, admits that she was on drugs and had violent boyfriends. The story has a happy ending of sorts and Gill's hope is that the cycle of family turmoil can be broken. **Peter Waymark**

6.00am GMTV (8957184) **9.25 Win, Lose or Draw** (s) (7154169) **9.55 Regional News** (Teletext) (6978508) **10.00 Batman — the Animated Series** (s) (6988985) **10.25 Cartoon** (r) (1680459)

10.35 FILM: The Little Kidnappers (1990) with Charlton Heston. Remake of the 1953 Oscar-winner about Scottish orphans who adopt an abandoned baby and are branded kidnappers. Directed by Donald Shebib (s) (44374701)

12.20pm HTV West News (Teletext) (6998237)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3824898)

12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3832817) **1.25 Coronation Street** (r) (Teletext) (5065459) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (54761324) **2.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (54780459) **2.50 Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (4019633)

3.20 News (Teletext)

3.25 Regional News (7880459)

3.30 The Riddlers (8919343) (r) **3.40 The Wind in the Willows** (r) (Teletext) (s) (3074968) **4.10 Warner Brothers Cartoon** (r) (5488898) **4.15 Mike and Angelo** (r) (s) (2995782) **4.40 Crazy Cottage** (Teletext) (s)

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (2620530)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (601459)

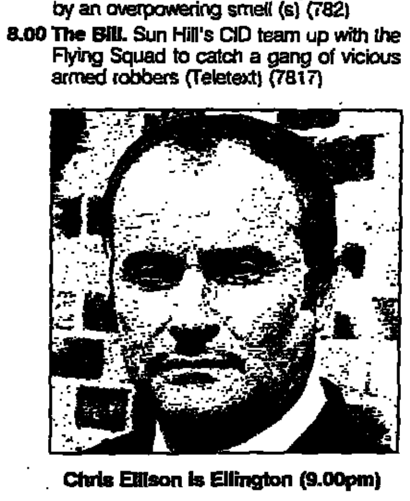
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (141053)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (309966)

7.00 Emmerdale. Nick's anger erupts with chilling results (Teletext) (s) (8188)

7.30 3-D. Julia Somerville investigates what you can do when your locality is invaded by an overpowering smell (s) (782)

8.00 The Bill. Sun Hill's CID team up with the Flying Squad to catch a gang of vicious armed robbers (Teletext) (7817)



Chris Ellison is Ellington (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE **Ellington.** Action drama series set in the shady world of sports promotion (Teletext) (s) (7053)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (67782)

10.30 HTV News (Teletext) (434879)

10.40 Getaways. Linda Ward learns to fence on a holiday in Taunton Summer School, Anne Gregg tours Brussels and Graham Purches samples a cookery and gourmet tour holiday in Cullompton. This week's postcard comes from Finland's Lake District (Teletext) (784324)

11.10 On the Line (884850)

11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (292430)

12.40am Carnal Knowledge (1909744)

1.35 Not Fade Away. Kriss Akabusi selects numbers by Soul II Soul, Sade, Sting and George Benson (s) (4543522)

2.30 Shift (17396)

3.30 Late & Loud (r) (s) (72893)

4.30 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (18763)

5.00 Garden Calendar (60638)

5.30 Morning News (88947)

As HTV WEST except:

6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight (309966)

7.30-8.00 Wales This Week (782)

10.40 Strangely Scientific (784324)

11.10-11.40 3-D (884850)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.25-12.30 My Story (6906256)

12.55 Emmerdale (3832817)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79258053)

1.55 Home and Away (68365508)

2.25 Vanessa (54764411)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (4969148)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (2620530)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (42594)

10.30 Westcountry News (458459)

10.45 The LADS (203169)

11.15-11.40 Power Game (168324)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (3832817)

1.25 Chain Letters (79258053)

1.55 A Country Practice (44653237)

2.20 Vanessa (54765140)

2.50-3.20 High Road (4019633)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (2620530)

6.25 Central News and Weather (159072)

6.55-7.00 Life Line (929188)

10.40 Film: Angel of Death (68558898)

1.40am Not Fade Away (4588386)

2.40 Shift (3750270)

3.35 Customs Classified (5909015)

4.15 Jobfinder (8673928)

5.20 Asian Eye (1251386)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm Chain Letters (3832817)

1.25 Home and Away (79258053)

1.55 Shortland Street (44653237)

2.20 Vanessa (54765140)

2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (4019633)

5.10 Home and Away (2620530)

5.37-5.40 *Three Minutes* - Crimestoppers (886614)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (546)

6.30-7.00 Grass Roots (898)

10.40 Film: The Dead Pool (28256091)

12.25am Music Box Profile (5305473)

12.40 Phoenix (1909744)

5.00 Freescreen (60638)

S4C

Starts: 6.30 Fifteen to One (67492) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (28091) **9.00 Saved by the Bell: The College Years** (84459) **9.30 Gamesmaster** (8421701) **9.55 California Dreams** (6735898) **10.20 Mork and Mindy** (6980343) **10.50 The Adventures of Tintin** (1173256) **11.15 The Pink Panther** (5691053) **11.40 Dog City** (6849481) **12.00 The Legend of White Fang** (64695) **12.30pm Hullaballoo** (91237) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (5044966) **1.35 Loves Lost Hour** (44673091) **1.55 Jimmy's** (68356850) **2.25 Channel 4 Racing From Cheltenham** (64517966) **4.30 The Lonely Planet** (695) **5.00 5 Pump Uned 5** (6966) **5.30 Fifteen to One** (275) **6.00 Newyddion** (507695) **6.15 Heno** (708530) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (452091) **7.25 Ma ffan Ma** (610904) **8.00 Clecx** (5850) **8.30 Newyddion** (4985) **9.00 i dot** (5695) **10.00 Film: The Crying Game** (30572343) **12.05am Dispatches** (5593638)

6.30am Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (67492)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (28091)

9.00 Saved by the Bell: The College Years (r) (84459) **9.30 New Gamesmaster** (r) (8421701) **9.55 California Dreams** (6735898) **10.20 Mork and Mindy** (r) (6980343) **10.50 Tintin** (r) (1173256) **11.15 The Pink Panther Show** (s) (5691053) **11.40 Dog City** (r) (6849481) **12.00 The Legend of White Fang** (r) (64695) **12.30 Sesame Street** (r) (8706343) **1.25 Hullaballoo.** Followed by **Alfie Atkins** (r) (79256695)

1.55 Jimmy's (r) (Teletext) (s) (68356850)

2.25 Channel 4 Racing from Cheltenham. Derek Thompson introduces live coverage of the **2.30, 3.05, 3.40** and **4.15** races (s) (64517966)

4.30 Fifteen to One(Teletext) (s) (695) **5.00 Ricki Lake** (Teletext) (s) (8456689) **5.45 Terrytoons** (975546)

6.00 NBA 24/7. The Los Angeles Lakers v the San Antonio Spurs (s) (188)

6.30 Roseanne (r) (Teletext) (s) (140)

7.00 Channel 4 News (701695)

7.50 The Slot (769053)

8.00 Africa Express. Toyin Fani-Kayode reports on how Uganda is getting back on its economic feet and is now recording the fastest growth in Africa. Beathur Baker goes to South Africa's first big ballroom dancing championship of 1996 to discover why dancing has become so popular (5850)

8.30 The Real Holiday Show. Holidaymakers take camcorders to capture their true experiences (r) (Teletext) (s) (4985)

9.00 CHOICE **Undercover Britain: Shabby Treatment** (Teletext) (s) (7324)

Josie, Ella and mother Gill (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **Lost Contact.** One woman's battle to reclaim her children after social services put them into care (Teletext) (92071)

10.00 NYPD Blue. Sipowicz and Medavoy exhume the remains of a teenager who disappeared eight years before (Teletext) (s) (280275)

10.55 Whose Line Is It Anyway? (r) (Teletext) (s) (814350)

11.30 Rory Bremner — Who Else? (r) (s) (369701)

12.10am Get Up Stand Up. Comedy sketches and stand-up, starring Malcolm Frederick, Chris Tummings and Angie Le Mar (r) (s) (1760947)

12.40 Dispatches (r) (Teletext) (4492638)

1.40 FILM: Just Us (1986). Australian drama, based on fact, about the relationship between a newspaper journalist, Gabrielle Carey (Catherine McClements) and a prisoner serving life, Terry Haley (Scott Burgess). Directed by Gordon Glenn (357657). Ends at **3.30**

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Undun (55169) **9.00** Press Your Luck (8632169) **9.20** Love Connection (9862698) **9.45** Oprah Winfrey (4702184) **10.40** Jeopardy! (2848898) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9349430) **12.00** Beechy (32508) **1.00pm** Hotel (41256) **2.00** Geraldo (19873) **3.00** Court TV (3966) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (5701546) **4.15** Undun (9358695) **5.00** Star Trek (3546) **6.00** The Simpsons (7237) **6.30** Jeopardy! (1817) **7.00** LAPD (4275) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8071) **8.00** Through the Keyhole (4445) **8.30** Animal Practice (2430) **9.00** The Commish [illegible]

SKY NEWS

[illegible]

SKY MOVIES

[illegible]

SKY MOVIES GOLD

[illegible]

Pat and Mike (1952) (76904) **8.00 The Breakfast Club** (1985) (48121) **10.00 Aliens** (1986) (46001102) **12.20am Gorillas in the Mist** (1988) (72065473) **2.30-4.05 The Mummy's Shroud** (1966) (697893)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Tommy the Toreador (1959) (15922) **8.00 Fern the Red Deer** (1977) (48053) **9.00 The Great Pony Raid** (1967) (65382) **10.00 The Little Princess** (1939) (55459) **12.00 Imitation of Life** (1959) (14324) **2.00pm The Magic Bubble** (1992) (85614) **4.00 The Three Musketeers** (1992) (2585053) **4.50 We're Back! a Dinosaur's Story** (1993) (1308072) **6.00 Prehysteria! 2** (1994) (65850) **8.00 The Paper** (1994) (56261053) **9.50 The Movie Show ()** (973275) **10.20 Dark Angel - the Ascent** (1994) (1311508) **11.45 Antho-** [illegible]

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

[illegible]

EUROSPORT

[illegible]

(74607) 11.30 Formula 1 (24166) **12.00** Weightlifting (25966) **2.00pm** Live Tennis (130186) **5.00** Kick Boxing (4430) **6.00** Live Weightlifting (21430) **8.00** Pro Wrestling (39459) **9.00** Darts (19695) **10.00** Basketball (82324) **11.30** Formula 1 (78546) **12.00-12.30am** Motorcycling Magazine (52560)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (95701) **7.30** Wrestling (43966) **8.30** Racing (12904) **9.00** Aerobics (26576) **9.30** Futbol Mundial (40275) **10.00** American Sports Cavalcade (70492) **11.00** Grass Roots Rugby (77121) **11.30** PGA Tour (78850) **12.00** Aerobics (83492) **12.30pm** Golf — Senior Tour and Nike Tour (649411) **3.30** Futbol Mundial (4169) **4.00** Nascar Supertrucks (91701) **5.00** Wrestling (9362) **6.00** Sports Centre (3053) **6.30** Formula 3 Racing (7633) **7.00** Trans World Sport (28349) **8.00** Netbusters [illegible]

SKY SPORTS 2

[illegible]

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

[illegible]

SKY SOAP

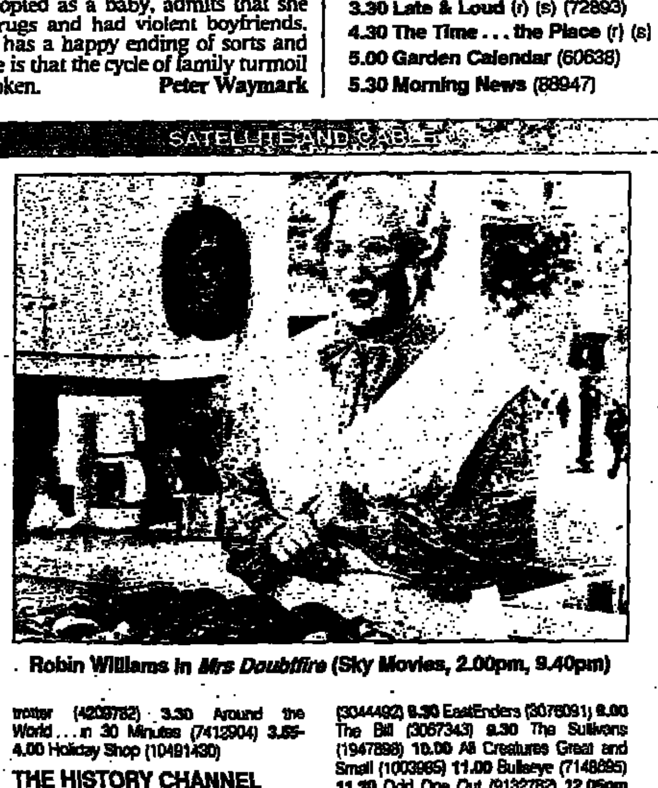
[illegible]

SKY TRAVEL

[illegible]

UK GOLD

[illegible]



Robin Williams in *Mrs Doubtfire* (Sky Movies, 2.00pm, 9.40pm)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

[illegible]

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

[illegible]

TLC

[illegible]

12.00 Garfield and Friends (50188) **12.30pm** Felix the Cat (88459) **1.00** Earthworm Jim (80140) **1.30** Creepy Crawlers (70430) **2.00** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (8643) **2.30** Gravedale High (6782) **3.00** Eek the Cat (9140) **3.30** Pink Panther (8527) **4.00** California Dreams [illegible]

NICKELODEON

[illegible]

DISCOVERY

[illegible]

BRAVO

[illegible]

TCC

[illegible]

PARAMOUNT

[illegible]

11.30 Rocky and Bullwinkle (41492) **12.00** Dominion Tank (65034) **12.30pm** Benson (25928) **1.00** Wings (21386) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (38164) **2.00** Entertainment (65305) **2.30** Dr Katz (44812) **3.00** Ren and Stimpy (91302) **3.30-4.15** Rocky and Bullwinkle (8242847)

UK LIVING

[illegible]

FAMILY CHANNEL

[illegible]

MTV

[illegible]

VH-1

[illegible]

Hour (1390817) **7.00** VH-1 for You (9219850) **8.00** Thursday Review (9235898) **9.00** Ten of the Best. Bonnie Raitt (9248362) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (9218121) **11.00** Roy Orbison & FRIENDS (3554527) **1.00am** Ten of the Best: Meat Loaf (9887367) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from 6am to 7pm on satellite, 24 hours on cable, including Saturday Nite Dance Ranch and 6.00-7.00 Big Ticket

ZEE TV

[illegible]

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 6am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.

[illegible]

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

BBC WORLD

News on the hour.

[illegible]

RACING 43
CLASSIC COUNTDOWN
BEGINS FOR
GODOLPHIN STRING

SPORT

RUGBY UNION 46
MAKE OR BREAK
TIME FOR TOP
ENGLISH CLUBS

THURSDAY APRIL 11 1996

Scot full of confidence that Masters challenge will not end in another near miss

Montgomerie set to go one better

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN AUGUSTA

COLIN MONTGOMERIE starts the sixtieth Masters this morning with something about to be fitted on his shoulders. Will it be his first green jacket, to continue the sequence of a European golfer having won four of the six Masters played in this decade, following Nick Faldo, Ian Woosnam, Bernhard Langer and José María Olazábal? Or will it be the albatross of yet another second place in a Major championship?

At his public school in Scotland, Montgomerie was taught modesty and British restraint. However, there is no hint of diffidence about his public utterances on these April days. He is, he says, as confident as he has ever been.

These words may come back to haunt Montgomerie by Sunday evening, but if, after a second place in the Players' Championship two weeks ago in only his second event of the year, the man ranked second in the world cannot speak freely of his optimism and confidence on the eve of this year's Masters, then when can he?

There is one example that perfectly demonstrates the level of Montgomerie's confidence. It suggests that he can defeat the fast-improving Tiger Woods, who may yet become the first amateur to win this event, and a strong field of international players, from which Ernie Els may be the pick. He can beat the revived Jack Nicklaus, said to be hitting the ball enormous distances once again, and even one of those surprise American winners who have popped up week after week on the US Tour this year.

The example is this: each Masters is preceded by a competition over the adjoining par-three course. It is frolic at which Fuzzy Zoeller, Payne Stewart and Peter Jacobsen act the goat, hitting shots all at once, hauling a young spectator out of the crowd to play a stroke for them. No winner of the par-three competition has gone on to victory in the 72-hole event.

Such an omen carried no fears for Montgomerie. "Of course, I am going to play in it," Montgomerie said. "Someone's got to win the par-three and the tournament. It is just a coincidence it hasn't happened yet. Besides, I play better under pressure. Hitting the first shot in the Ryder Cup was daunting. If I can cope with that, I can cope with anything.

"Being a favourite does not make it any easier or more difficult. The problems arise if you're 222nd in the world, not second. For me, there's no problem. I feel confident of where the ball is going.

"To win here, you've got to be brave. At certain times, there are certain putts that need to be hit positively and not worry about the one coming back. If you worry about the one coming back, you've missed the one you're hitting."

Such words might sound boastful but, for once, they did not have a hollow ring. Imagining Montgomerie's fair curly hair above a green jacket did not seem fanciful.

At 32, he has come of age. As he has lost weight, so he has gained maturity. As his drives have gained length, so he has increased in confidence. Losing 30lb over the winter boosted his self-esteem. Having his hands higher on the backswing has enabled him to hit the ball higher and further.

If he could be granted one wish, it would be that his putting could rise to the level of efficiency it was on the lightning-fast greens of Oakmont, where he lost in a play-off for the 1994 US Open. In golf, you drive for show and putt for dough, and it has been Montgomerie's putting that has stopped him from picking up the first-place prize-money.

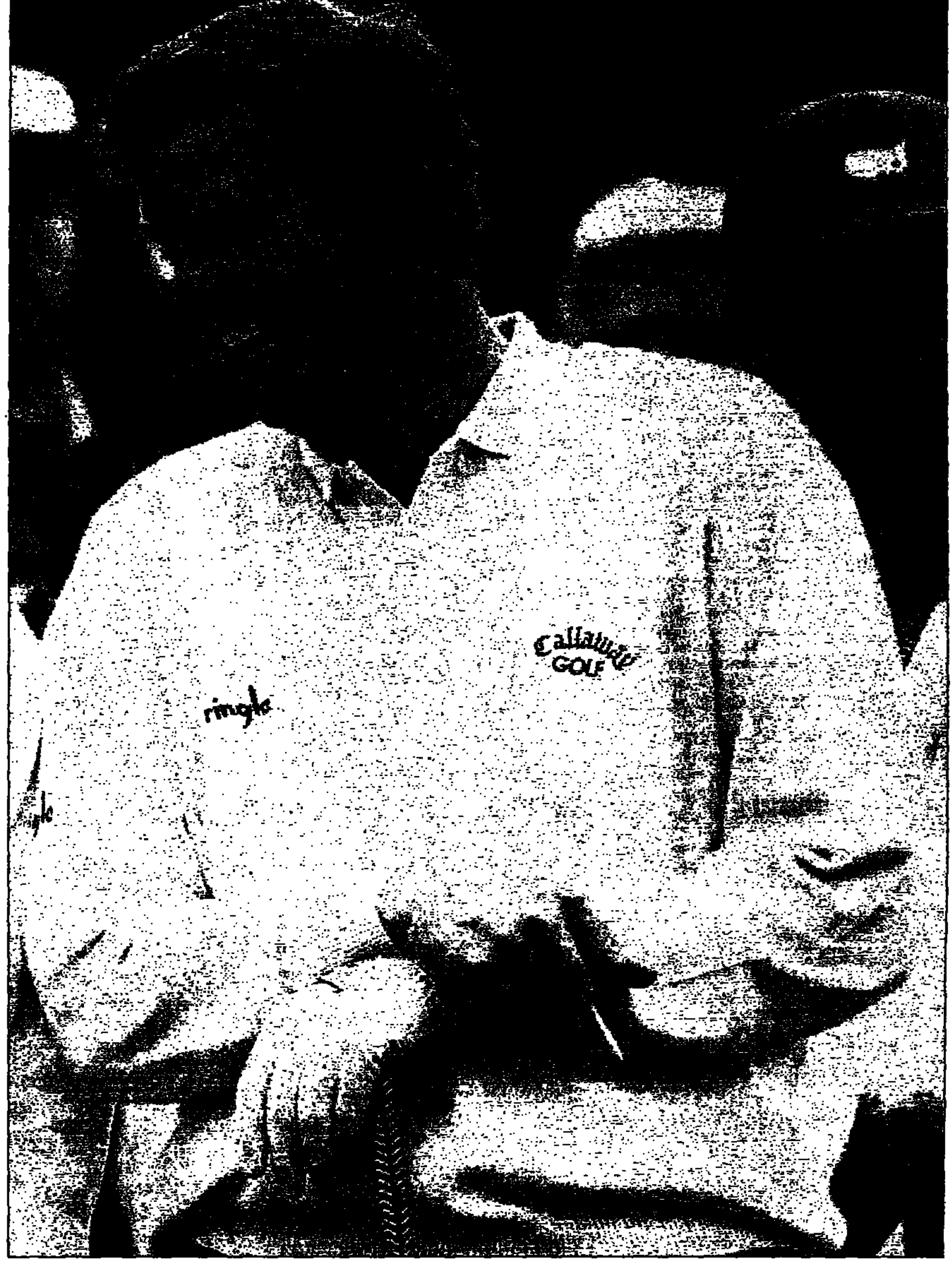
"There is nothing I am working on right now," he said yesterday before going out for practice. "I am able to draw the ball where I have to. I am longer than I was. My hands are as good as they've ever been and I've been practising my putting an awful lot. I hope all this will set me fair for this week."

Lee Trevino has maintained all his life that a left-to-right hitter cannot win at Augusta because so many holes bend from right to left. Montgomerie, whose natural shot is a gentle fade, believes this is not the problem that Trevino made it out to be. "You only need to hook or draw the ball on one hole here," he said. "And that is the 13th. It's a myth that this course does not suit me."

Woosnam is another contender enjoying excellent recent form but a recurrence of his back trouble could scupper his attempt to win the Masters for a second time. He has applied ice-packs and spent hours on the treatment table but admitted he was "stiff and sore" yesterday. "I have backache a lot, but I've had nothing as bad as this for about three months," the Welshman said after practice. "It's not the best time for it to have happened."

Show of mastery 44
Today's tee-off times 44

Woosnam: back trouble



Montgomerie finds reasons to be cheerful during practice for the Masters, at Augusta, which starts today

Redgrave to ship oars after Olympic Games

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

STEVE REDGRAVE and Matthew Pinsent, one of the finest double acts in British sport, are set to go their separate ways after the Atlanta Olympics. Redgrave, bidding for an unprecedented fourth rowing gold medal at successive Games, insisted yesterday that it would be his last competitive appearance. Pinsent, with whom he defends the coxless pairs title won in Barcelona, says he plans to carry on rowing.

Redgrave, 34, who has also won six world titles, said: "I plan to retire after Atlanta. "I have been racing now for the last 20 years and I can't see myself doing another four years' training.

"I am training hard for Atlanta to go the way we want it to go. Then I would be very happy to walk away from the sport — certainly from the competitive side.

"If I win another gold medal and I am standing there on the rostrum with people asking if I am going to retire, I will probably say 'no'. But certainly, the way I am thinking at the moment, this will be my last appearance."

Pinsent, 25, said: "For both of us, the bottom-line is that Atlanta is going to be a big change in our lives. We are both pretty convinced we will be heading in different directions.

"I'm about as sure that I want to carry on as Steve is sure that he wants to retire."

Both men say their preparations for Atlanta are going well — with a successful swap involving Redgrave moving to stroke and Pinsent switching to the bow.

Pinsent added: "We are both comfortable with it and enjoying the change. None of us, including our coach, knows whether we are going to change back, if at all."

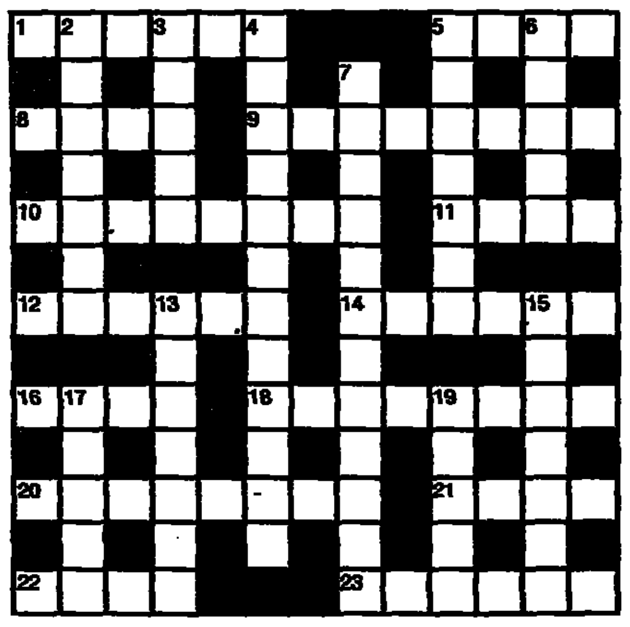
Redgrave and Pinsent were speaking at the launch of a scheme by Barclaycard Visa to donate £500,000 as holders use their cards in the 100 days leading up to the centennial Games.

It will go to the British Olympic Association and British Paralympic Association for training camps, coaches and equipment.

☐ The Amateur Rowing Association yesterday approved the extension of Jürgen Grobler's contract as chief men's coach up to the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 753 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 Treeless Arctic zone (6)
5 Mooch sadly (4)
8 *(Adolescent) spots* (4)
9 Paralytic attack; *(loosely)* fit of rage (8)
10 Centre of target (5-3)
11 Wilfred —; — Glendower (4)
12 Japanese indigenous religion (6)
14 Raincloud; saintly aura (6)
16 Pellets; attempt (4)
18 Unforthcoming in speech (8)
20 One held in custody (8)
21 Toothed implement; sweet store (4)
22 Neglected child (4)
23 With-it (6)

DOWN
2 Of coarse manners (7)
3 Live (in); linger (on) (5)
4 Personal interest (in outcome) (2,3,2,5)
5 *Brother of Donalbain (Macbeth)* (7)
6 Pointed-hat fairy (5)
7 Be developing excellently (4,2,1,5)
13 I enthusiastically agree! (3,4)
15 Anonymous (7)
17 African doglike animal (5)
19 Hidden store (5)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UKs second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrows second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe.
All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address ....

....

SOLUTION TO NO 752
ACROSS: 1 Ruck 3 Swearing 8 Doll 9 Circular 11 Cumbersome 14 Louvre 15 Planet 17 Melancholy 20 Unlikely 21 Ramp 22 Peter Pan 23 Melt
DOWN: 1 Ridicule 2 Columbus 4 Whimsy 5 Accomplice 6 Ills 7 Gory 10 Tear-jerker 12 Annotate 13 Stays put 16 Dahlia 18 Gala 19 Slot

Silver to step down and sell stake at Leeds

BY DAVID MADDOCK

LESLIE SILVER announced yesterday that he is to resign as chairman of Leeds United, after 14 years. Silver, who is the largest shareholder in the club, said that he felt that it was time to "retire". He will be replaced by Bill Fotherby, the managing director.

In the long term, however, Silver intends to sell his 33 per cent stake, which will offer the potential for a bidder to buy a controlling interest in the club ranked among the elite of the FA Carling Premiership. Richard Thompson, owner of Queens Park Rangers, has been floated as a potential buyer. Silver, however, said that there are several interested parties. "There are all sorts of suggestions about who might want to buy in," he said. "None have got beyond the talking stage, although one may soon.

"When I do come to sell my stake, then there is no way I will let it go to someone who doesn't have the best interests of Leeds at heart. The change of shareholding will not change the existing structure."

Silver, 71, has presided over one of the more successful eras in the club's history, guiding them from the brink of bankruptcy in the early 1980s, when he took control, back to what the club's supporters believe is their rightful position among the game's elite. His astute chairmanship, in tandem with the efforts of Howard Wilkinson, the manager, brought the Football League championship to Elland Road in 1992, the final year of the competition.

His departure will raise further doubt about the future of Wilkinson, however, who has come under increasing pressure from supporters.

☐ Craig Whitington, 25, the Huddersfield Town striker, received a six-month ban for drugs offences from the Football Association yesterday. Whitington was found guilty of misconduct after testing positive for cannabis twice in ten months.

The Fridge still hamming it up

Simon Barnes *warms to an old stager who sets store by well-rehearsed lines*

English sport has a debt of gratitude to The Fridge. So, now that he has turned up in this country to play for the London Monarchs in the World League of American Football, it behoves us to be nice to him.

William "The Refrigerator" Perry was the fat kid who burst onto the national consciousness in 1985. He played with a rumbling exuberance: his great asset was momentum; and he won the Super Bowl — scored a touchdown, too — with the Chicago Bears in his rookie season. And he was, is, huge.

His official weight in the Monarchs player roster is "350-ish", the figure being pounds, and the "ish" being, at a casual glance, considerable. A total, anyway, of 25 stone plus. So there he was, doing his publicity stuff, promoting the start of the new season of this still somewhat underwhelming sporting venture, talking up the game on Sunday between the Monarchs and the Scottish Claymores at White Hart Lane. "I still got it. I'm gonna go out there and I'm gonna play." Elaborate circumlocution has never been The Fridge's way.

He left that to Gavin Hastings, a love-object for middle-class Scots everywhere, the former Scotland rugby union captain now playing as kicker for the Claymores. Apparently he's gonna go out there, and he's gonna play, too. Yes, but do you understand the rules, Gavin?

Er, well, he has been working on his assignment as kicker, and therefore, as far as the rest of the game is concerned ... "Hey, Gavin," The Fridge said, "I played ten years in the NFL, and I still don't understand most of the rules." Heh, heh, heh.

All right, all right. A clapped-out star in a half-cock attempt to drum up support for a trumped-up league at an amateur-night lash-up of a press conference. No need to get carried away. But, as I say, we owe a debt to Perry, and we should mind our manners.

For 1985 was the year of Heysel. The football season ended with that dreadful night, on which 39 people were killed at the European Cup final after a charge on opposition fans by inflamed Liverpool supporters. Even football's complacency was shaken and our faith in the winter game was shattered, it seemed then, beyond repair. Every football match, even the act of reading the football results, seemed set about with shame, misery and death.

It was natural to seek relief, and it came in what was then an exoticism: American football. The sport was shown in week-old highlights on Sunday evenings on Channel 4. Perry became an instant hero in a game, shown as the Monday Night Game in the States, with a short-yardage touchdown and two devastating blocks that allowed Walter Payton to score.

Perry was great big fat kid having a whale of a time and, what is more, he had the best nickname ever. He caught the fancy of America, and was rewarded, as America likes to reward its passing fancies, with enough money to last the rest of his life.

And for us Brits, he was perfect. He cheered us up. He made sport acceptable, fun, funny. Life-affirming, in short. The Fridge became in an instant a traditionally ludicrous aspect of the sporting round. He was part of national rehabilitation.

Perry played in the NFL until 1994, shifting to Philadelphia Eagles the previous year. But he wants his young son to see him play, and he is in Europe with his family as a sort of lionising vacation. Besides, you can never drag an old ham off the stage.

"We're gonna play smash'em-out offense and smash'em-out defense. We're gonna see some blood." Thanks, Fridge. Sure, it's a tired act, but we still owe you.

Hastings, left, and The Fridge come face to face yesterday